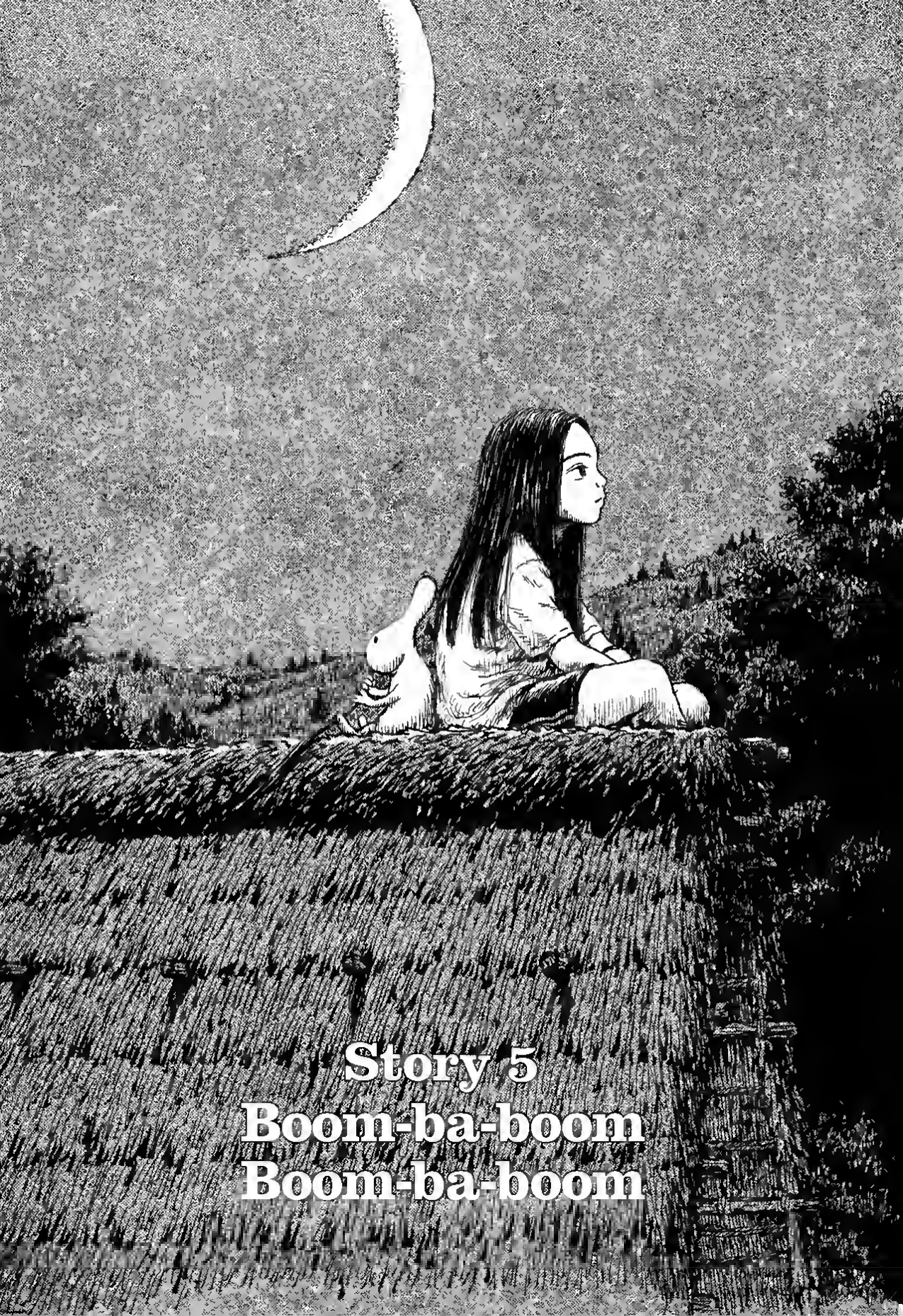
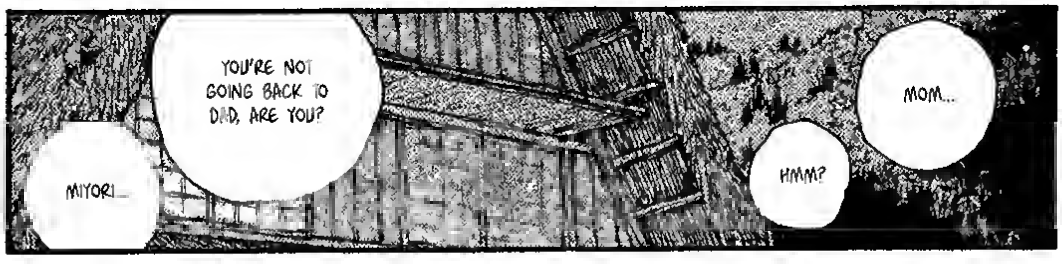


Story 5
Boom-ba-boom Boom-ba-boom

I'M DONE.
HAVEN'T HAD A SUPPER TABLE THIS CROWDED SINCE THE SIXTIES!

GOIN' ALREADY?

CLINK CLINK

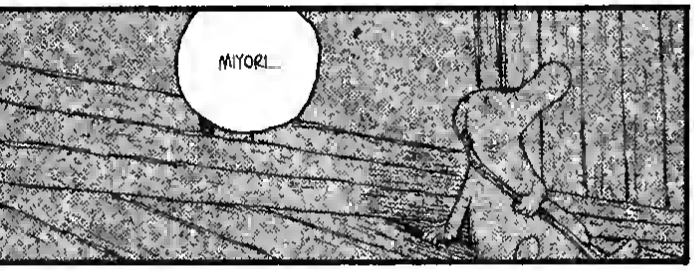

MIYORI...
YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK TO DAD, ARE YOU?
HMM?
MOM...

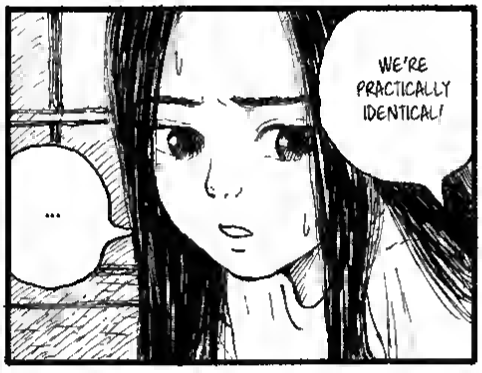
WHY? DON'T YOU *HATE* ME?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.

WHY DON'T WE LIVE TOGETHER IN TOKYO, JUST THE TWO OF US?
...

YOU'RE LYING! LIKE WHAT?!
LIKE HOW YOU'VE GOT SO MUCH PRIDE. YOU'RE STUBBORN. YOU ACT TOUGH. YOU'RE SELFISH.

YOU JUST REMIND ME OF ME. YOU HAVE ALL MY BAD PARTS.
THAT'S WHY...

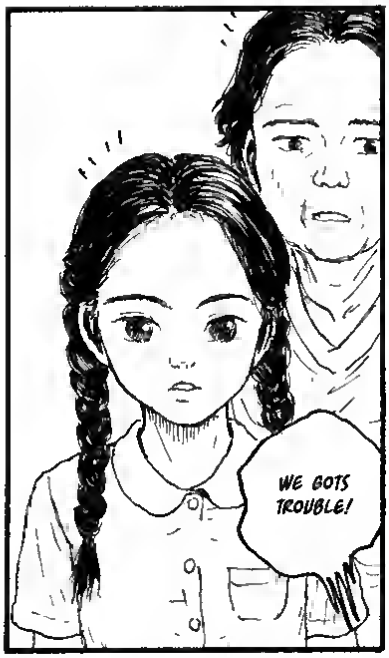

MIYORI...


...
WE'RE PRACTICALLY IDENTICAL!

JUST THINK ABOUT IT, 'KAY?

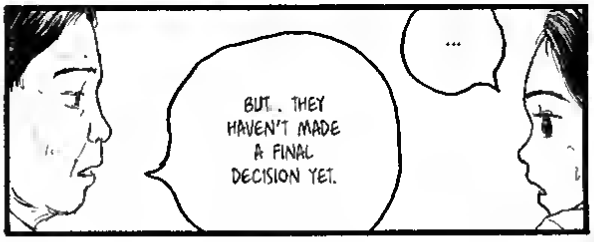
CLK
SAY, MIYORI?

MI...
SWOOP

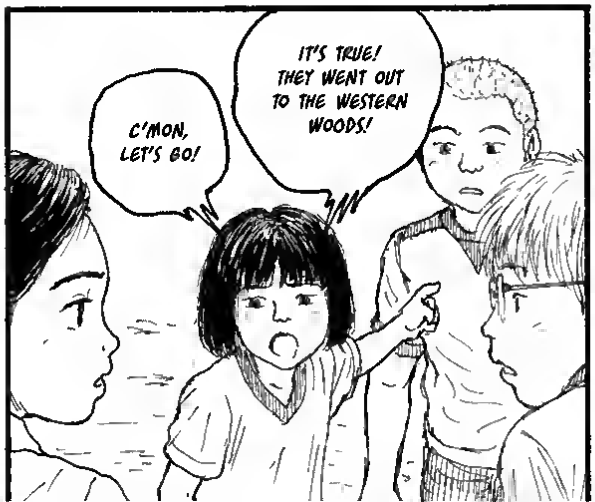

WE GOTS TROUBLE!

MIYORI!

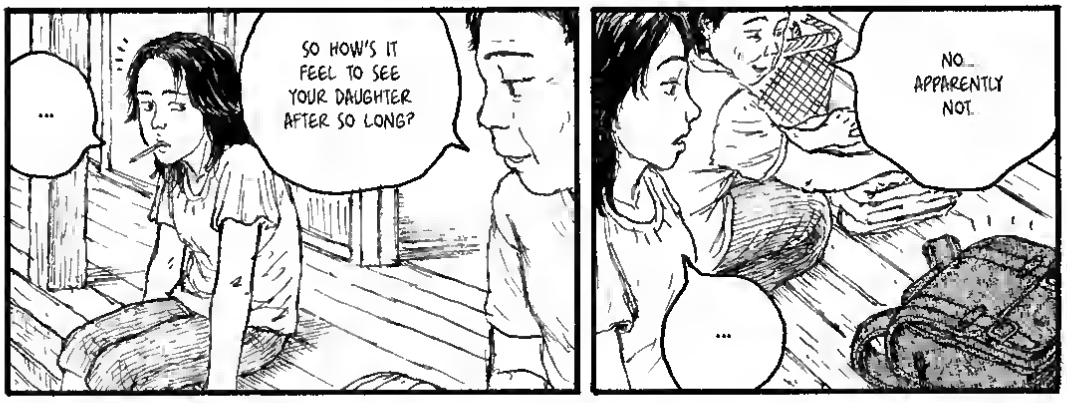
THE DAM PEOPLE ARE HERE!

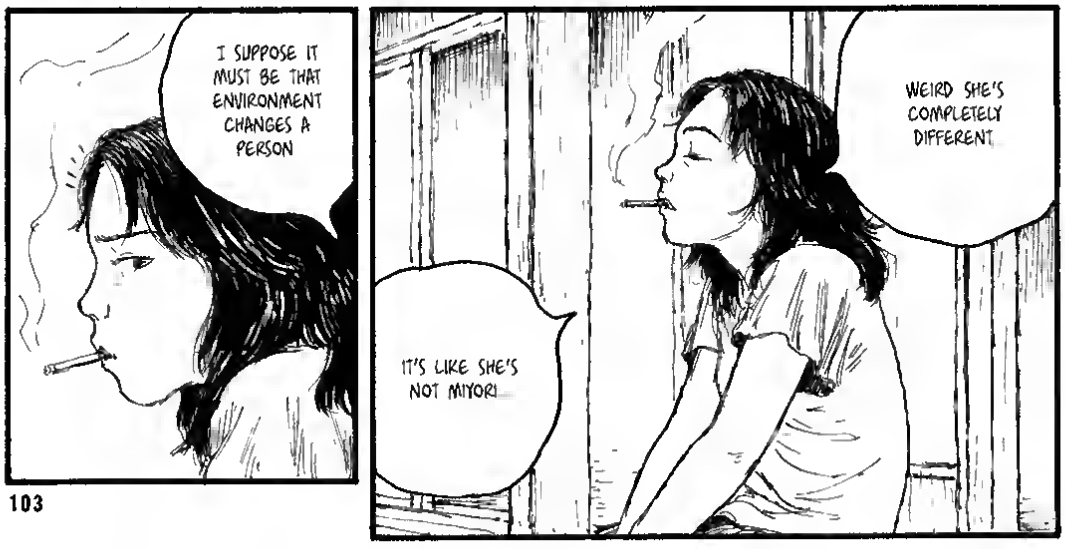

...
BUT... THEY HAVEN'T MADE A FINAL DECISION YET.

S-SAY WHAT?
NAOKO'S PLACE IS AN INN, AND GUESS WHO'S STAYIN' THERE.
THEY WERE ASKIN' MAMA ALL SORTSA STUFF ABOUT THE WOODS! IT'S GOTTA BE THEM!


C'MON, LET'S GO!
IT'S TRUE! THEY WENT OUT TO THE WESTERN WOODS!

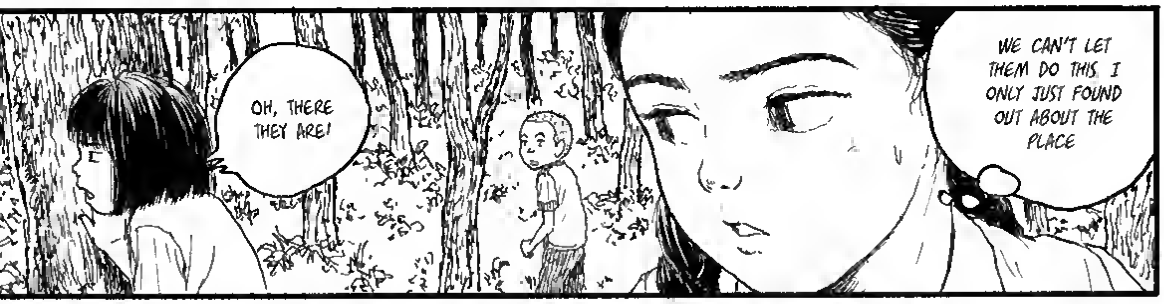
UH... WHERE'S MIYORI?
SHE'S GONE OUT ALREADY
DID YOU SLEEP ALL RIGHT?
SURE.
OH, GOOD MORNING.
OH, FOR SCHOOL?


...
SO HOW'S IT FEEL TO SEE YOUR DAUGHTER AFTER SO LONG?
NO... APPARENTLY NOT.
...


I SUPPOSE IT MUST BE THAT ENVIRONMENT CHANGES A PERSON
WEIRD SHE'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
IT'S LIKE SHE'S NOT MIYORI.

OOH, HOW I HATE HER
haff haff haff
PERHAPS IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU LET GO OF HER!
THE HELL?
shoo shoo
I'LL NEVER GET USED TO COMING HERE
!
MIYORI!
YOU'RE SURE?
LOOK, THIS IS THEIR CAR!
YEAH, I'M SURE!
THIS IS PROLLY WHERE THEY ENTERED THE WOODS

THEY'RE GONNA DESTROY MY FOREST...
SO IT'S FOR REAL...


OH, THERE THEY ARE!
WE CAN'T LET THEM DO THIS. I ONLY JUST FOUND OUT ABOUT THE PLACE

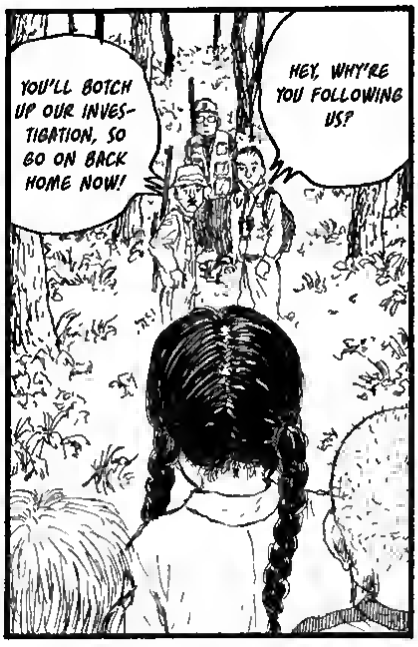
...

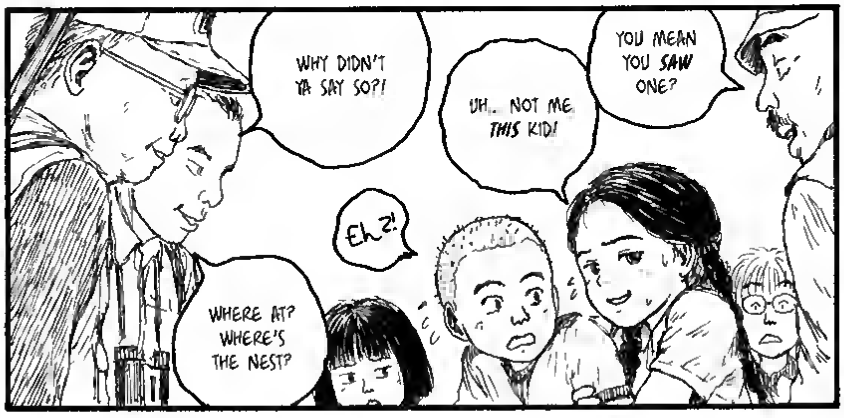
SURE ARE A SHADY-LOOKIN' BUNCH.
AREN'T THEY JUST HUNTERS?

THEY SEEN US! NOW WHAT?!
...
HEYYY! YOU KIDS!
YOU FROM AROUND HERE?
WELL, WE KNOW THEM, BUT THAT'S ALL.
NO, NO!
ERM
UM, ARE YOU THE DAM-BUILDERS?
YOU ALL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
GET THE DAY OFF OR SOMETHIN'?
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THERE AREN'T ANY ENDANGERED SPECIES LIVING AROUND HERE
WE'RE HERE TO ASSESS THE ENVIRONMENT BEFOREHAND
LIKE THE GOLDEN EAGLE?
YEAH, OR THE OKINAWA RAIL BIRD, THE IRIOMOTE WILDCAT, OR THE LYNX

WE'D BE IN TROUBLE WITHOUT 'EM IF A BEAR CAME AFTER US.
OH... JUST IN CASE.
WHY YOU GOT THEM GUNS THEN?
WELL, YOU KIDS MUST HAVE TO GET BACK TO SCHOOL! SO LONG, NOW!
SOMETHING STINKS...
WHAT NOW?
WUH-OH.

CAN'T HAVE YOU RUSHING THROUGH IT AND MISSING GOLDEN EAGLES ALL OVER THE PLACE!
WE'RE WATCHING TO MAKE SURE YOU ACTUALLY DO YOUR JOB!


YOU'LL BOTCH UP OUR INVESTIGATION, SO GO ON BACK HOME NOW!
HEY, WHY'RE YOU FOLLOWING US?


WHY DIDN'T YA SAY SO?!
UH... NOT ME THIS KID!
YOU MEAN YOU SAW ONE?
EH?
WHERE AT? WHERE'S THE NEST?

...
WHA?!

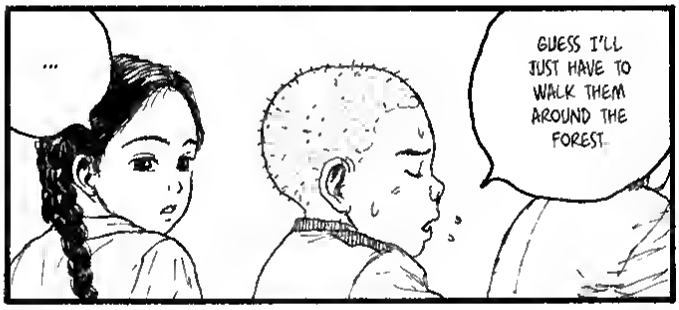
...
S-SURE I WILL!

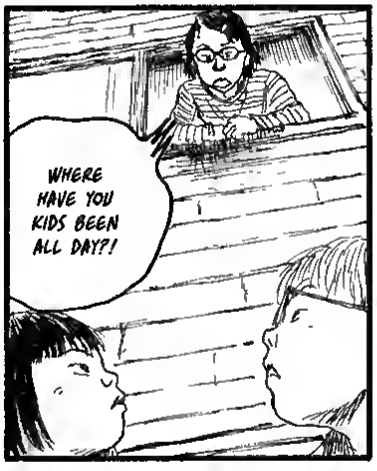
EH...
WILL YOU SHOW US HOW TO GET THERE TOMORROW?

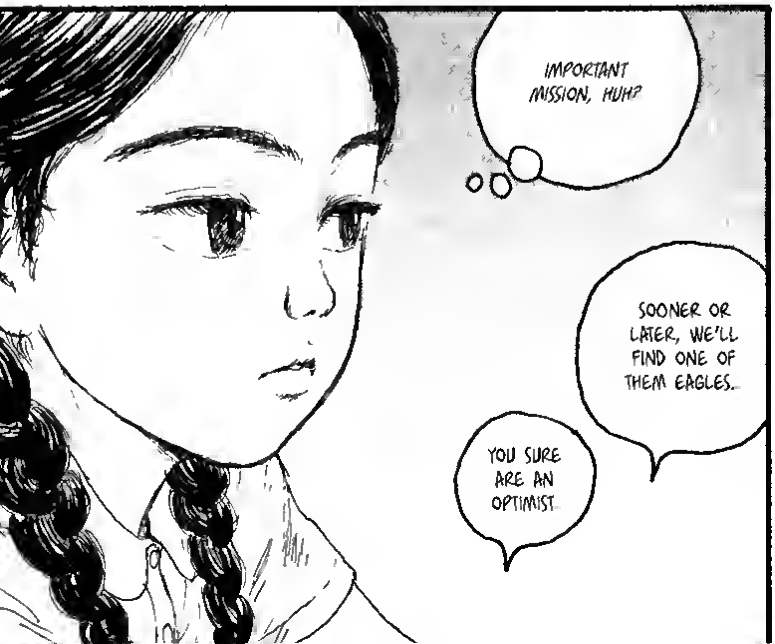
UM... AT THE, UH, OUTSKIRTS... YEAH, OF THE, UH, EASTERN WOODS!
NOW WHERE WAS IT AGAIN?

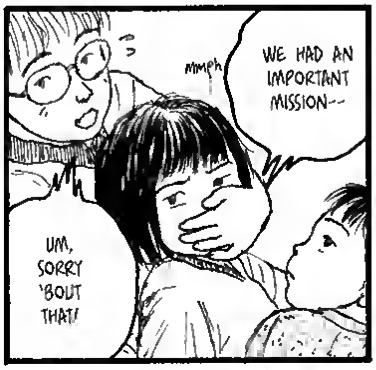
WHAT'D YOU EXPECT ME TO DO?!
WHAT DO YOU TWO THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
IT'S HER FAULT I--

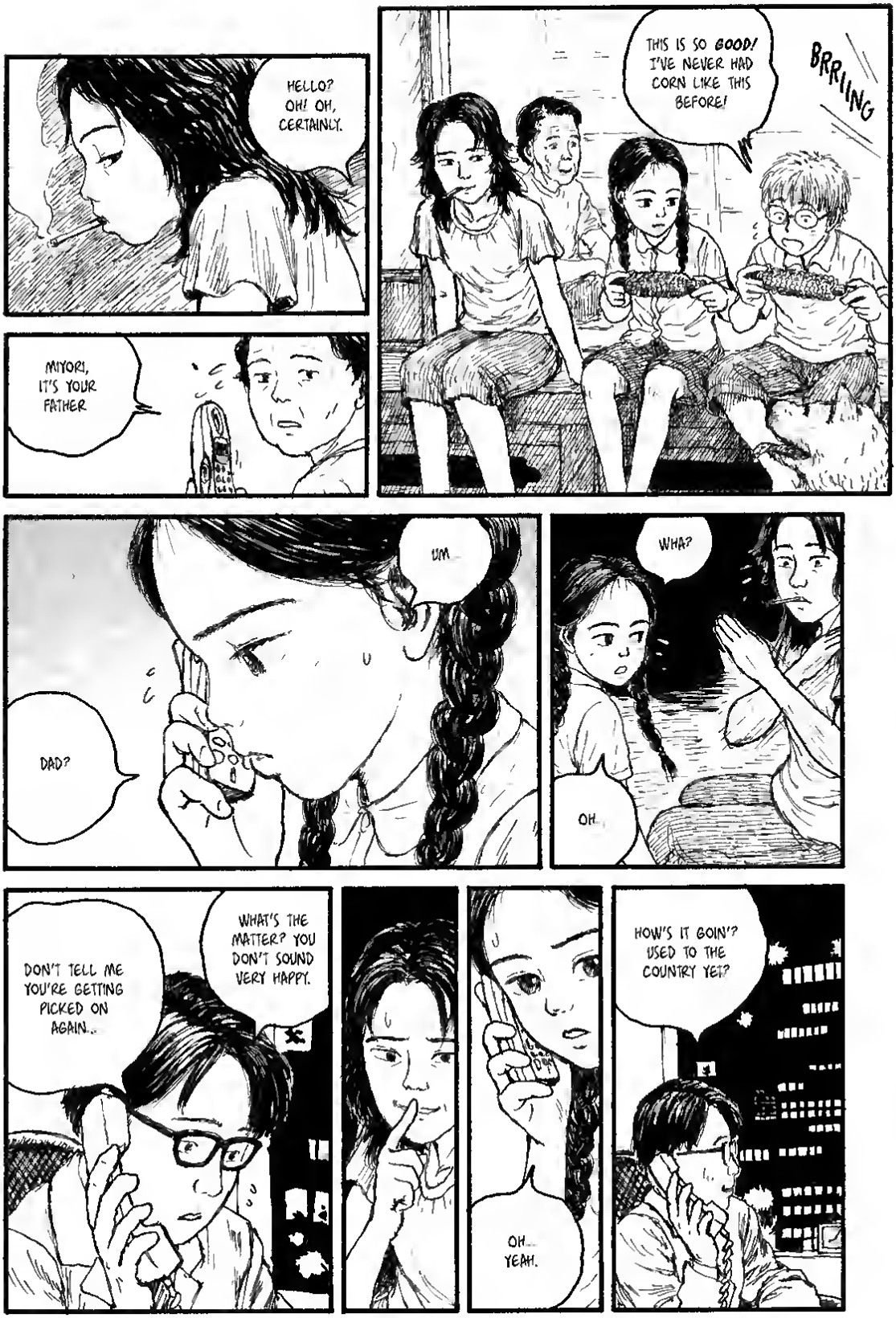
REEEAL DUMB, GUYS.
SUPER STUPID
DON'T ASK ME..
WHAT'LL YA DO NOW?
...


...
GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO WALK THEM AROUND THE FOREST.

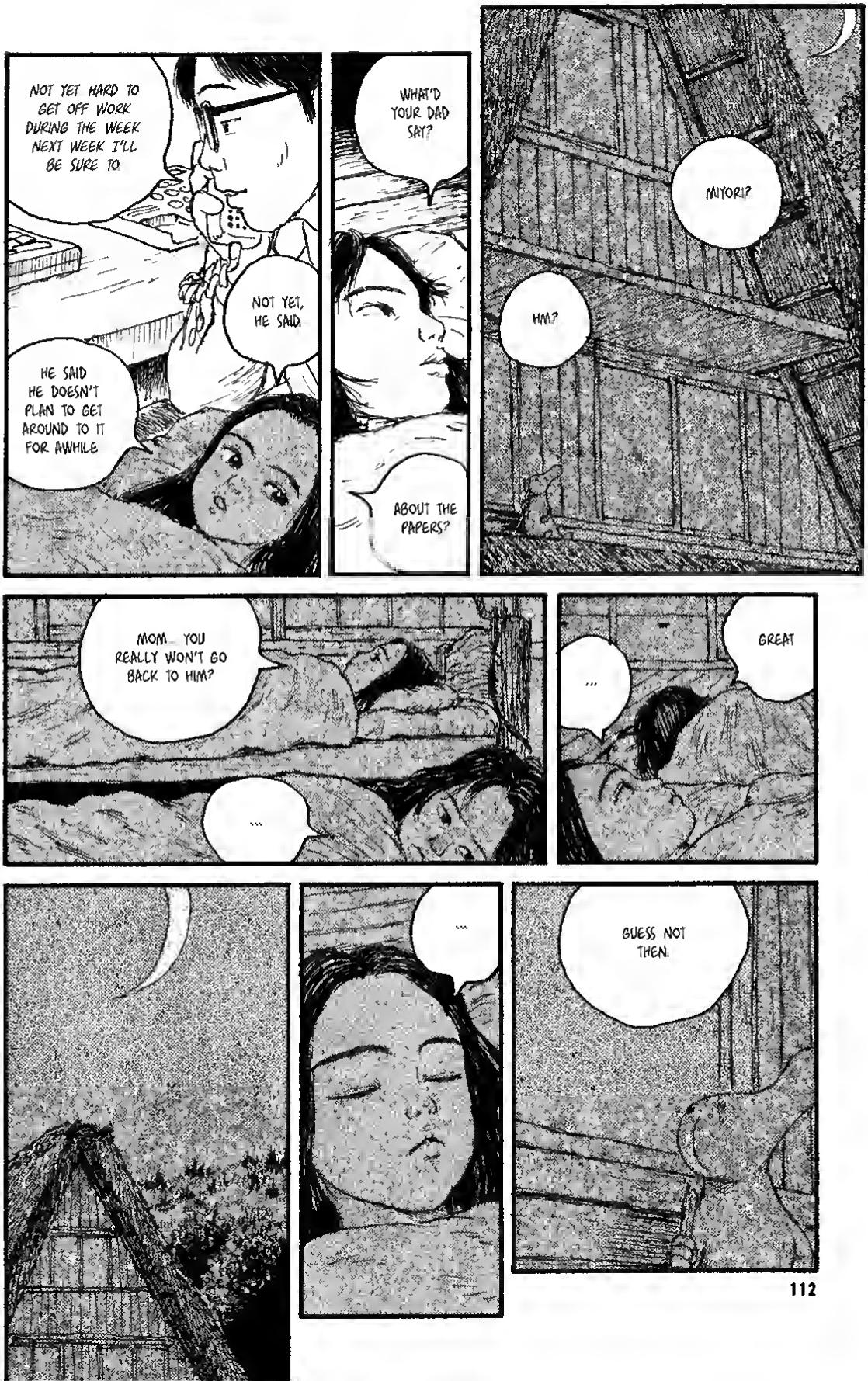

WHERE HAVE YOU KIDS BEEN ALL DAY?!


IMPORTANT MISSION, HUH?
SOONER OR LATER, WE'LL FIND ONE OF THEM EAGLES..
YOU SURE ARE AN OPTIMIST.


mmph
WE HAD AN IMPORTANT MISSION--
UM, SORRY 'BOUT THAT!

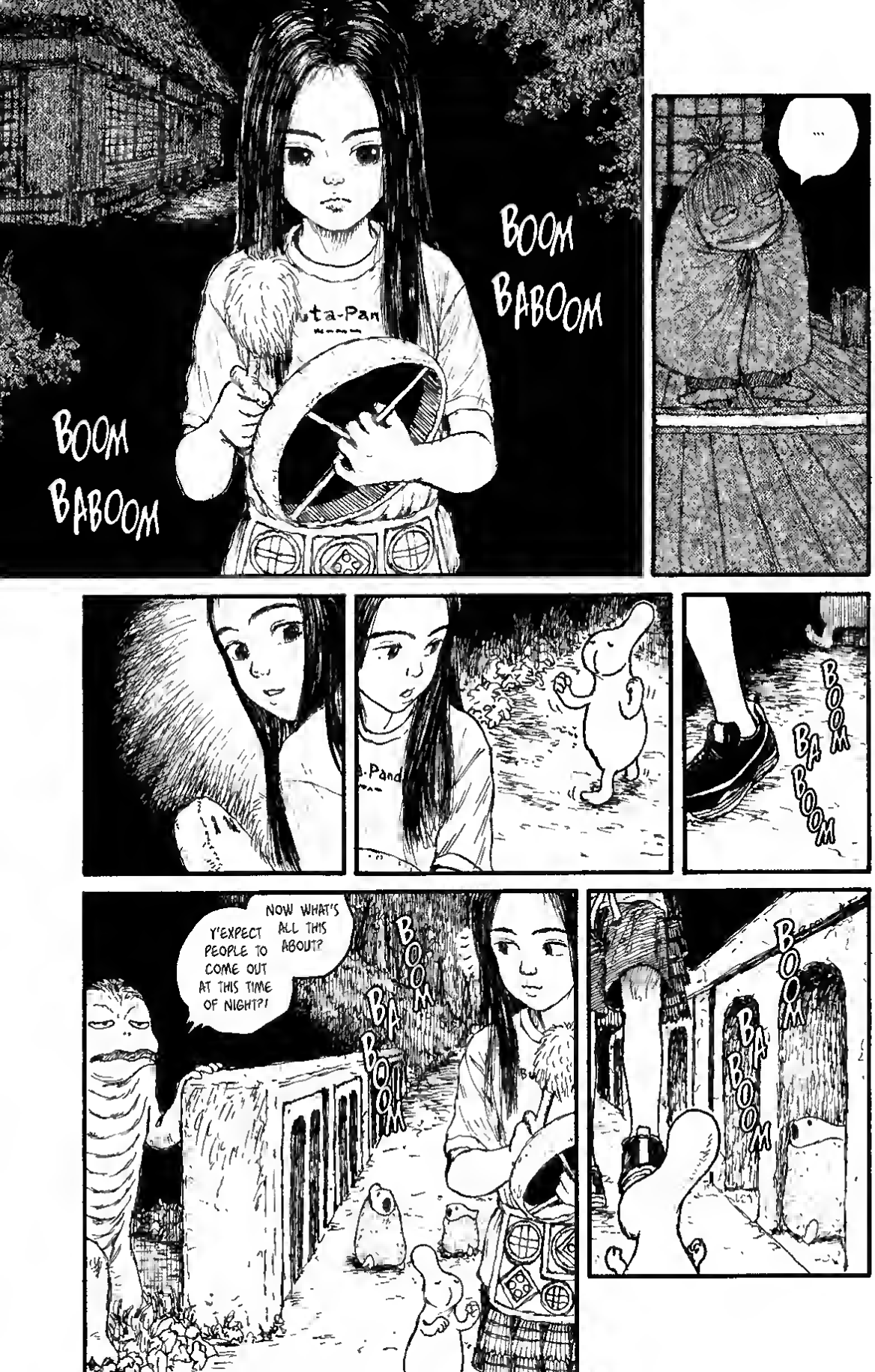

HELLO? OH! OH, CERTAINLY.
MIYORI, IT'S YOUR FATHER
THIS IS SO GOOD! I'VE NEVER HAD CORN LIKE THIS BEFORE!
BRRRING
UM...
DAD?
WHA?
OH...
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GETTING PICKED ON AGAIN...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU DON'T SOUND VERY HAPPY.
OH... YEAH.
HOW'S IT GOIN'? USED TO THE COUNTRY YET?

STILL WAITING FOR MOM TO COME BACK?
DO YOU STILL CARE FOR HER? DO YOU LOVE HER?
WHAT IN THE WORLD?! WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HAHAHA. ANYWAY, I'LL BE THERE TO SEE YOU AT THE END OF THE MONTH.
UH-UH, NOT AT ALL! WHAT ABOUT YOU, DAD? AREN'T YOU LONELY WITHOUT ME THERE?
HAHAHA.
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
...
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'VE ALREADY TURNED IN THE DIVORCE PAPERS MOM SENT.
HUH.
UH-HUH.
...
DAD, I...
YEAH?
MIYORI, THE THING ABOUT PEOPLE'S FEELINGS IS...
...THEY'RE NOT THAT EASY TO JUST SUM UP.


NOT YET HARD TO GET OFF WORK DURING THE WEEK NEXT WEEK I'LL BE SURE TO
NOT YET, HE SAID.
HE SAID HE DOESN'T PLAN TO GET AROUND TO IT FOR AWHILE
WHAT'D YOUR DAD SAY?
ABOUT THE PAPERS?
MIYORI?
HM?
MOM... YOU REALLY WON'T GO BACK TO HIM?
...
...
GREAT
...
GUESS NOT THEN.

NO, NO!
!!
AND THIS HERE'S A SIBERIAN DRUM THAT BRINGS TOGETHER ALL THE SPIRITS OF THE FOREST.
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

YEAH, THAT'S THE WAY!
GOT IT?
BOOM BABOOM
BOOM BABOOM
IT'S "BOOM-BA-BOOM"
"...BOOM-BA-BOOM."
...
UM... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
...UM, THANKS.
WAIT!
WA...
WASHI-RASHI.
HERE, WRAP THIS AROUND YOUR WAIST FIRST.
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT.
GOTTA HAVE THE PROPER ATTIRE.
YOU'LL HAVE TO TEACH ME MORE LATER, WASHIRASHI.


BOOM
BABOOM
BOOM
BABOOM
...
BOOM
BA
BOOM
NOW WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?
Y'EXPECT PEOPLE TO COME OUT AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?!
BOOM
BA
BOOM
BOOM
BA
BOOM

BOOM
BA
BOOM

BOOM
BA
BOOM

BOOM
BA
BOOM

TROUBLE AT THIS HOUR, MISS?

MOGURI
I NEED YOU

BOOM
BA
BOOM
BOOM
BA
BOOM

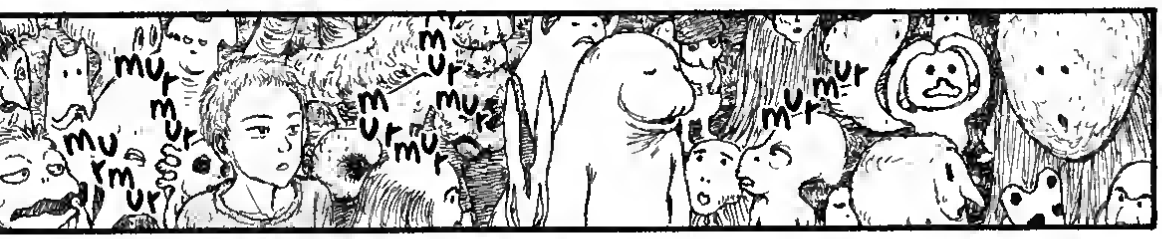
BOOM!..
BOOM
BA-BOOM
BOOM
BA-BOOM
WOW. LOOK AT 'EM ALL
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
MAKE IT QUICK!
...
GAH!
IT'S HER!

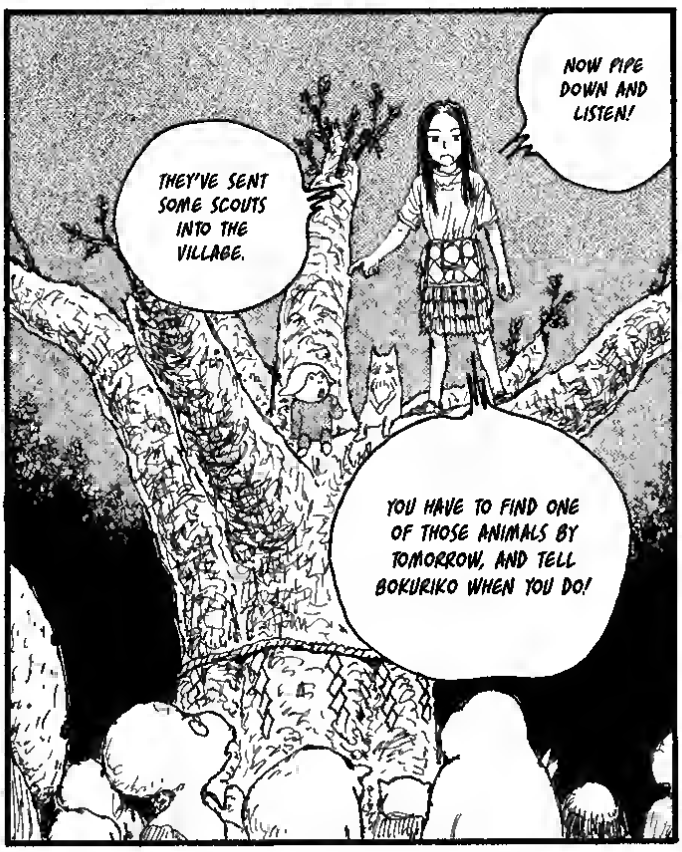
EVERYBODY SEARCH FOR A GOLDEN EAGLE! THEY CAN'T BUILD HERE IF THERE'S A GOLDEN EAGLE!
BUT I KNOW A WAY TO STOP THEM!
AN OKINAWA RAIL BIRD, IRIOMOTE WILDCAT, OR LYNX ARE ALSO GOOD ENOUGH!

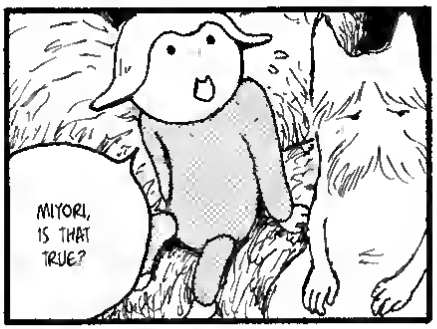
EVERYBODY LISTEN UP!
AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, THIS FOREST WILL SOON BE UNDERWATER BECAUSE THEY'RE BUILDING A DAM.

NOT LIKE THE ENTIRE FOREST IS DOOMED.
ONLY AS FAR AS THE EASTERN SPRING, AT MOST.
GOLDEN EAGLE? NEVA HOID OF DA BUM
I THOUGHT LYNXES WAS WAY SOUTH OF HERE.
TOO LATE FOR ANY OF THIS.
IT'S NOT JUST THE DAM, Y'KNOW! READY FOR MORE?!
Y-YOU PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT YET!
THEY'RE PUTTING TOGETHER PLANS TO TURN THIS ENTIRE FOREST INTO A NEW TOWN AS WE SPEAK!
ACK
GOOD GRAVY
REALLY?

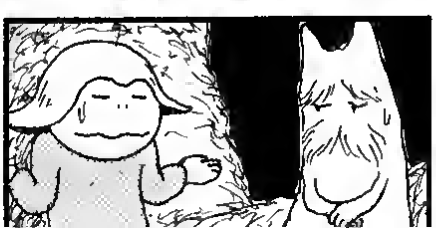
MOST OF WHAT YOU SEE NOW WILL BE HOUSES IN A LITTLE WHILE!
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?!

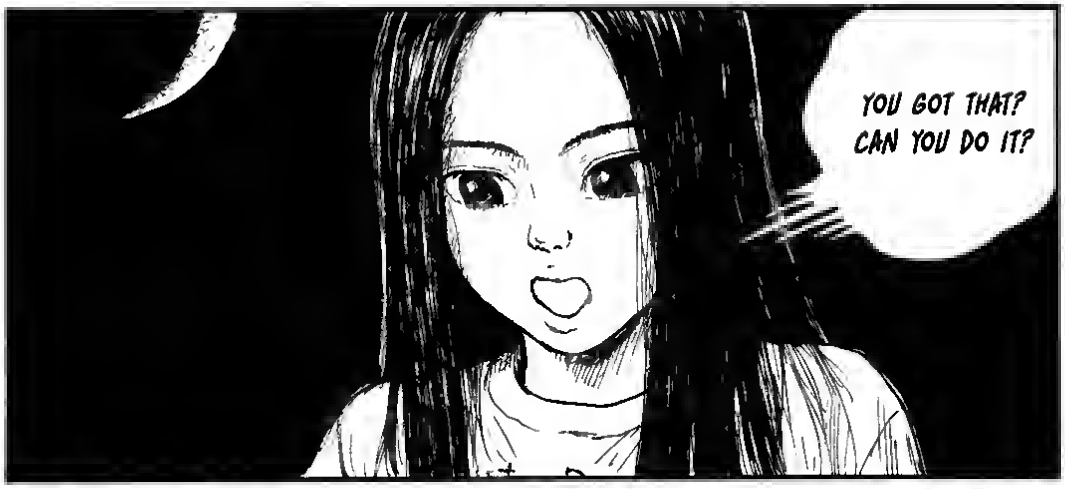

mur
mur
mur
mur
mur
mur
mur
mur
mur
mur

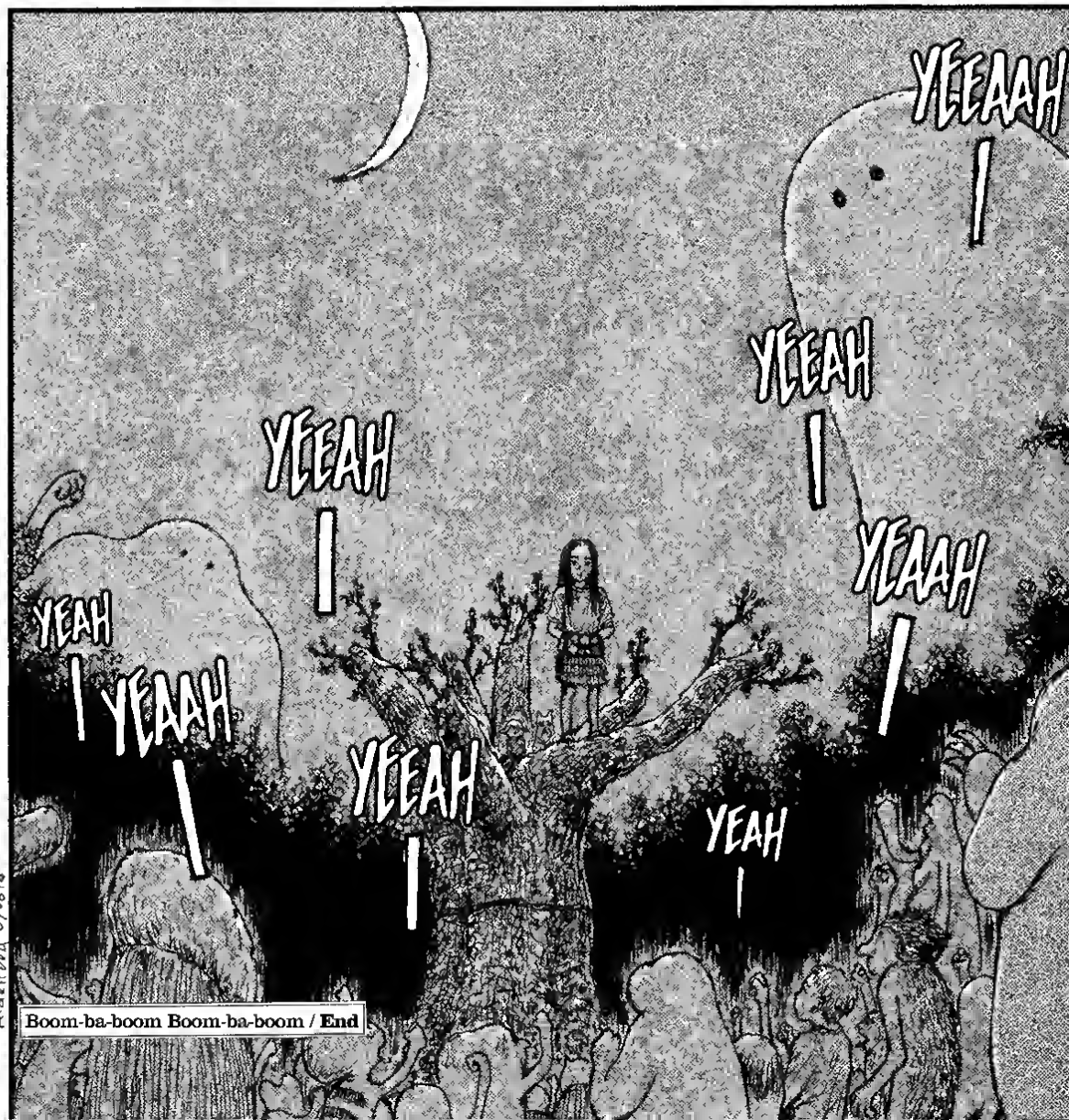

NOW PIPE DOWN AND LISTEN!
THEY'VE SENT SOME SCOUTS INTO THE VILLAGE.
YOU HAVE TO FIND ONE OF THOSE ANIMALS BY TOMORROW, AND TELL BOKURIKO WHEN YOU DO!


MIYORI, IS THAT TRUE?

...







Boom-ba-boom Boom-ba-boom / **End**

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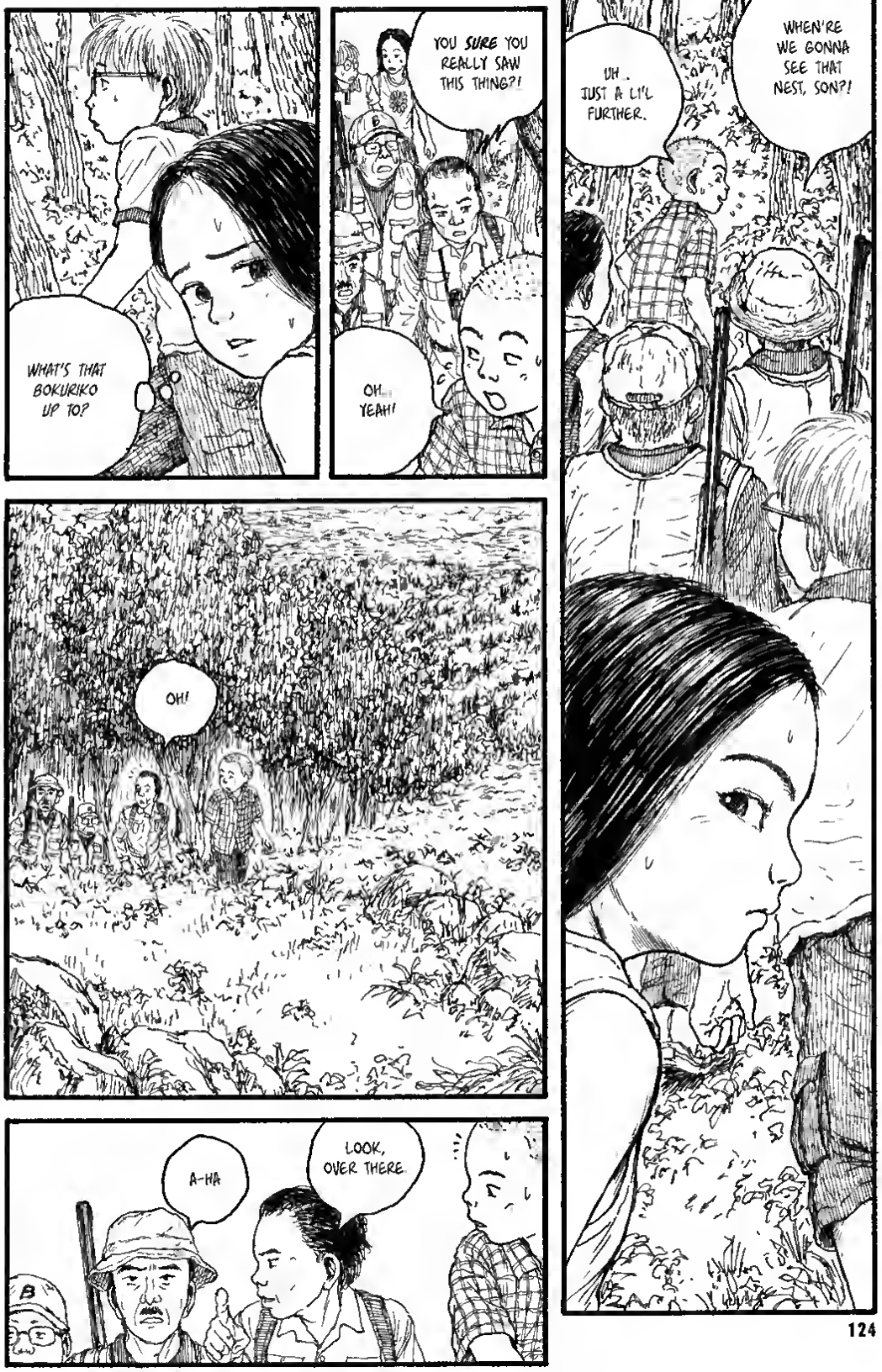
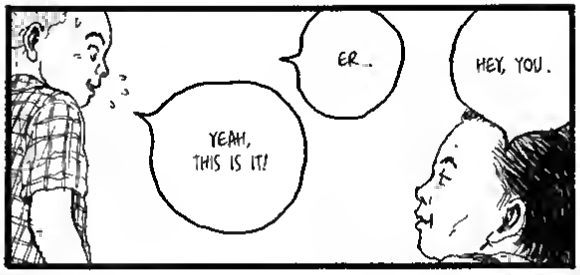
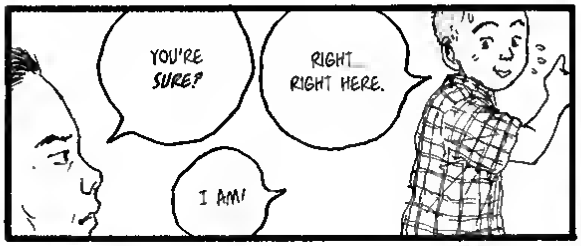
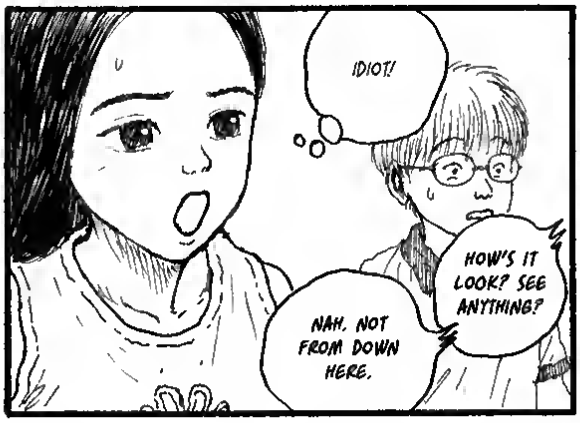
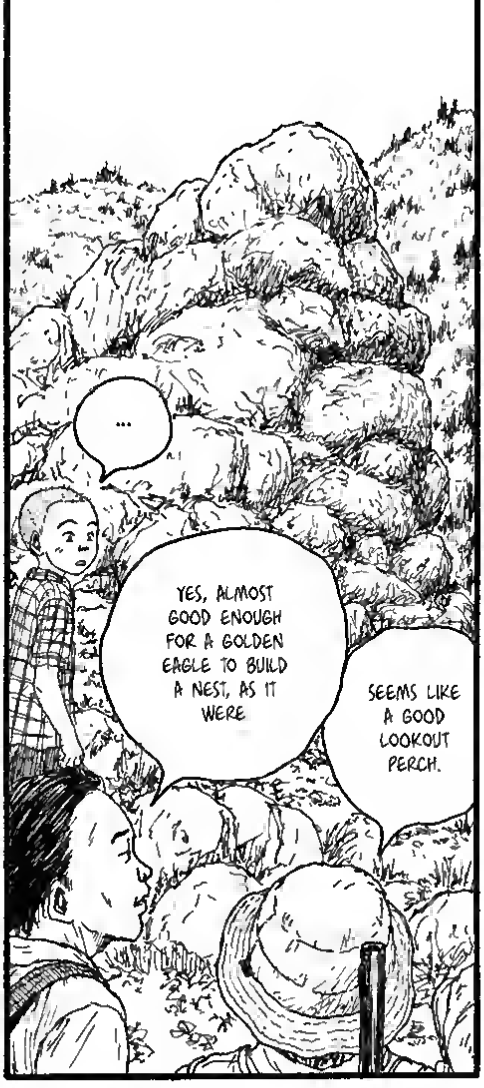
Story 6
Miyori Disappears


WHAT'S THAT BOKURIKO UP TO?
YOU SURE YOU REALLY SAW THIS THING?!
OH... YEAH!
OH!
A-HA
LOOK, OVER THERE.
UH... JUST A LI'L FURTHER.
WHEN'RE WE GONNA SEE THAT NEST, SON?!


HEY, YOU.
ER...
YEAH, THIS IS IT!


YOU'RE SURE?
RIGHT... RIGHT HERE.
I AM!


IDIOT!
HOW'S IT LOOK? SEE ANYTHING?
NAH. NOT FROM DOWN HERE.

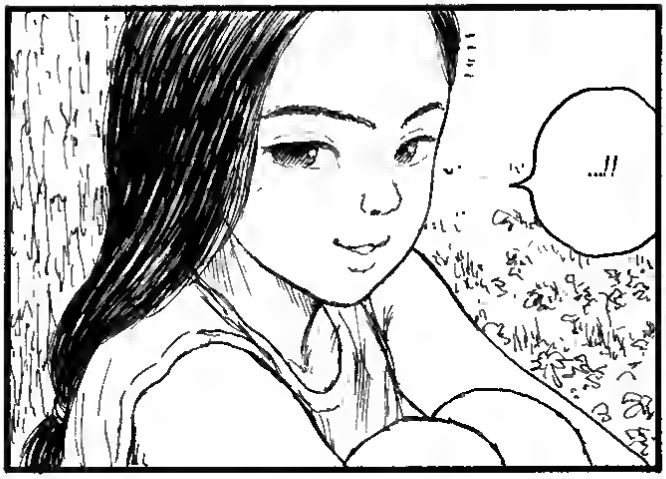

...
YES, ALMOST GOOD ENOUGH FOR A GOLDEN EAGLE TO BUILD A NEST, AS IT WERE
SEEMS LIKE A GOOD LOOKOUT PERCH.

IT'S ABOUT TO GET DANGEROUS, SO GET OUT OF HERE!

DON'T YOU HAVE SCHOOL?!

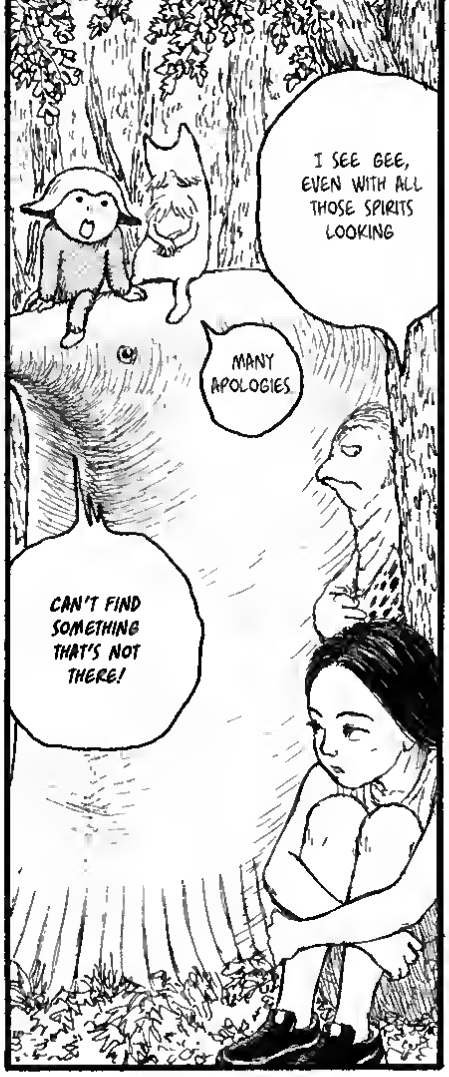
I... UH, SURE... BUT...
YOU CAN RUN ALONG NOW
WELL, THANKS A BUNCH, KID.

OVER HERE!
YOU'RE SO LATE!
MIYORI...
...
WHAT'LL YOU DO NOW? THEY'LL CATCH ON SOON!
MAYBE I CAN TELL 'EM I HAD THE WRONG DIRECTION...
TAKE IT FROM HERE, GENTLEMEN.
ALL RIGHT, I THINK WE'RE SAFE TO PROCEED.
pfft
...WE DIDN'T FIND ANY GOLDEN EAGLES OR ANY OKINARA RAIL...
...
IT'S OKINAWA!
IT'S MY REGRETTABLE DUTY TO INFORM YOU...
...
SO... HOW'S IT BEEN GOING?

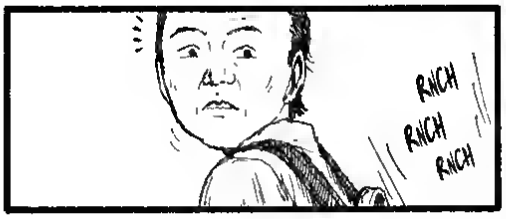

...!!

GWAH?!

SAY, BOKURIKO
WH-WHAT IS IT?


I SEE GEE, EVEN WITH ALL THOSE SPIRITS LOOKING
MANY APOLOGIES
CAN'T FIND SOMETHING THAT'S NOT THERE!

NOTHIN' THAT LOOKS LIKE A NEST UP HERE!
RUSTLE


RUCH RUCH RUCH

UMMM..

HOW'S IT LOOKING?!

!!
...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
!
!
FLAP
FLAP
THAT'S IT!
HAHAHA
DOESN'T THIS SEEM A BIT ODD TO YOU?
HUH?
I MEAN IT'S NOT FLYING AWAY, EVEN WHEN WE'RE THIS CLOSE.
THINK IT'S WOUNDED?

YOU THINK?
YEAH... MAYBE IT'S FAKING AN INJURY TO PROTECT ITS CHICKS OR SOMETHING.
ITS NEST MUST BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.
B
BOKURIKO! YOU'LL HAVE TO FLY A LITTLE!
WELL, I'M NOT A MAGICIAN!
THEY'RE GONNA GET SUSPICIOUS!
I CAN'T FLY!
WELL, WHATEVER THE CASE, THIS SEEMS RATHER CONVENIENT!
HUH? WHY ARE THEY...
CHAK
HWA?!
B
CHAK

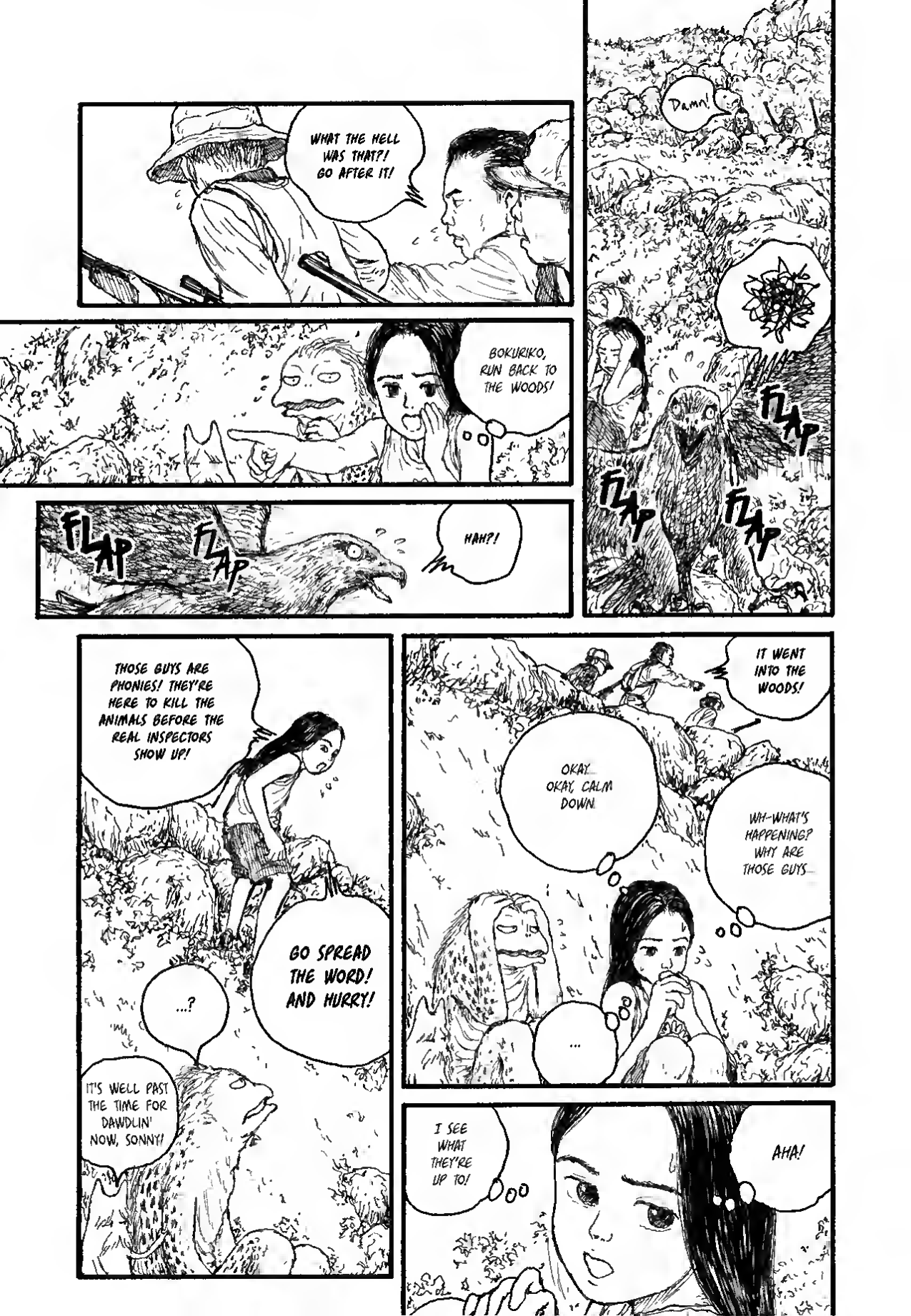
!!
MAKE SURE YOU HIT IT!

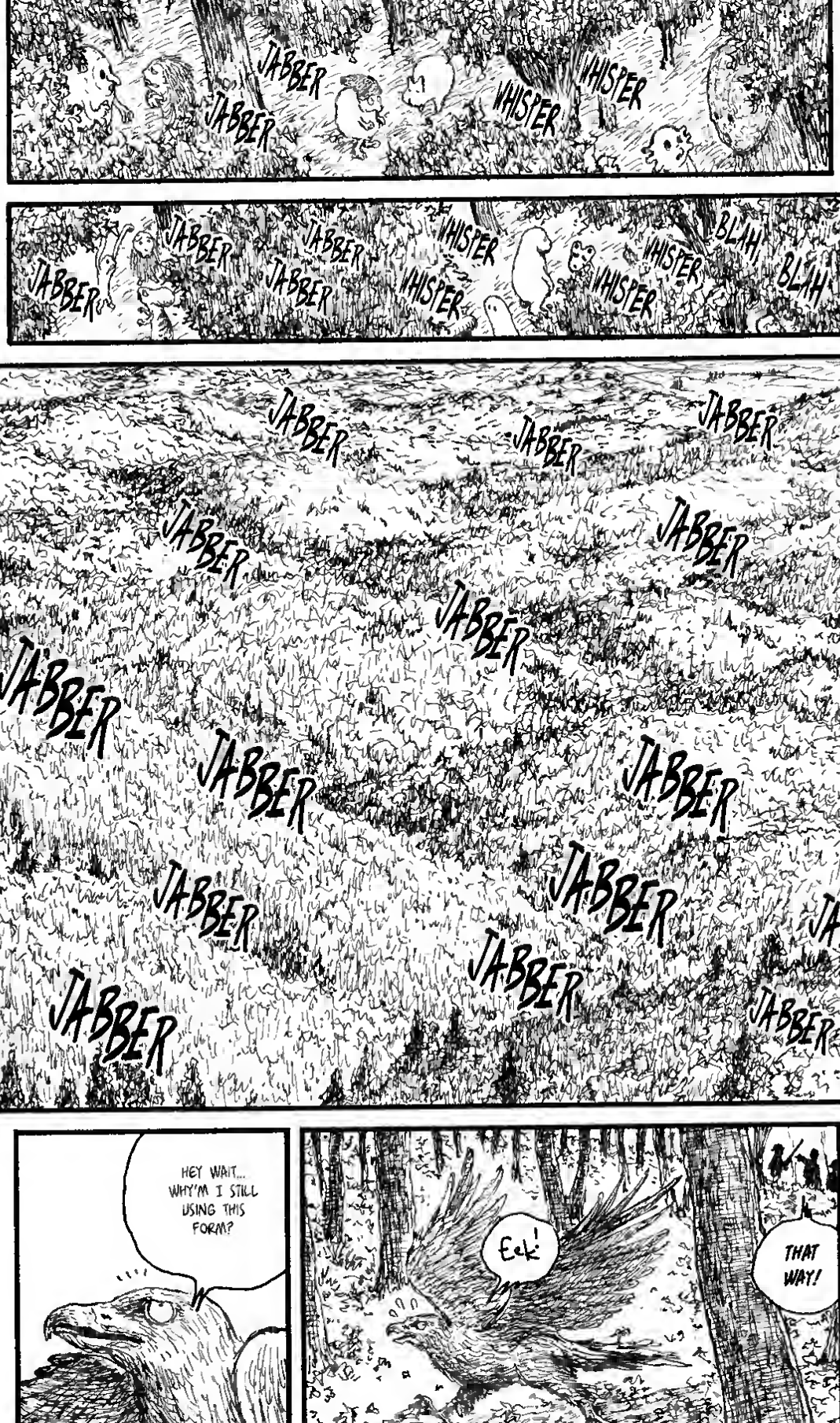
WH-WHAT WAS THAT?

UH-OH
HUH? WHERE'D MIYORI GO TO?

NO WAY
...!

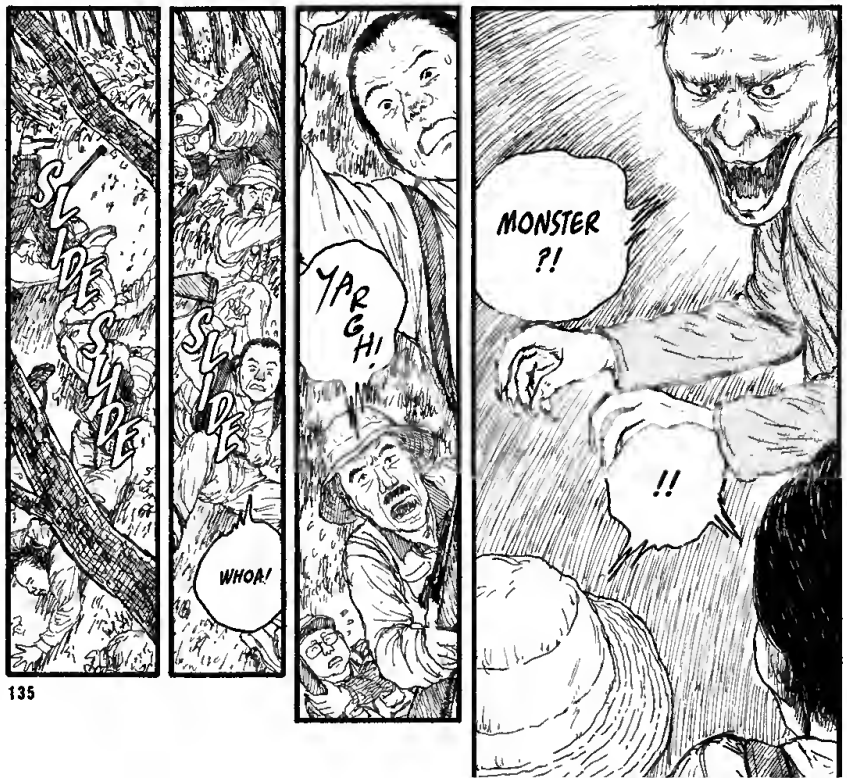
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

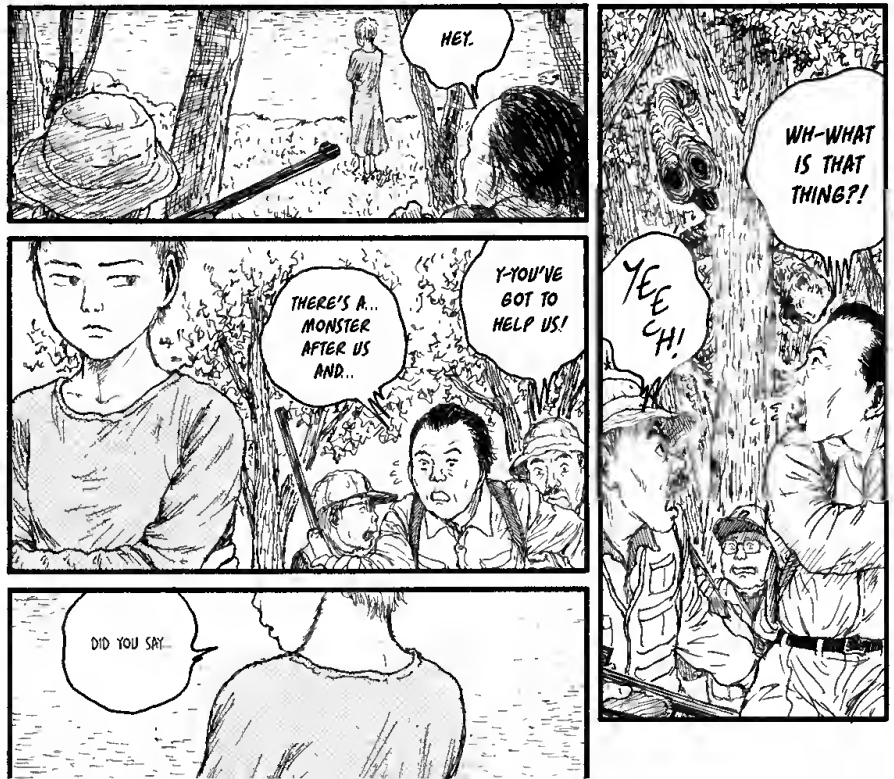

Damn!
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?! GO AFTER IT!
BOKURIKO, RUN BACK TO THE WOODS!
FLAP
FLAP
HAH?!
IT WENT INTO THE WOODS!
OKAY... OKAY, CALM DOWN.
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY ARE THOSE GUYS...
...
THOSE GUYS ARE PHONIES! THEY'RE HERE TO KILL THE ANIMALS BEFORE THE REAL INSPECTORS SHOW UP!
GO SPREAD THE WORD! AND HURRY!
...?
IT'S WELL PAST THE TIME FOR DAWDLIN' NOW, SONNY!
I SEE WHAT THEY'RE UP TO!
AHA!

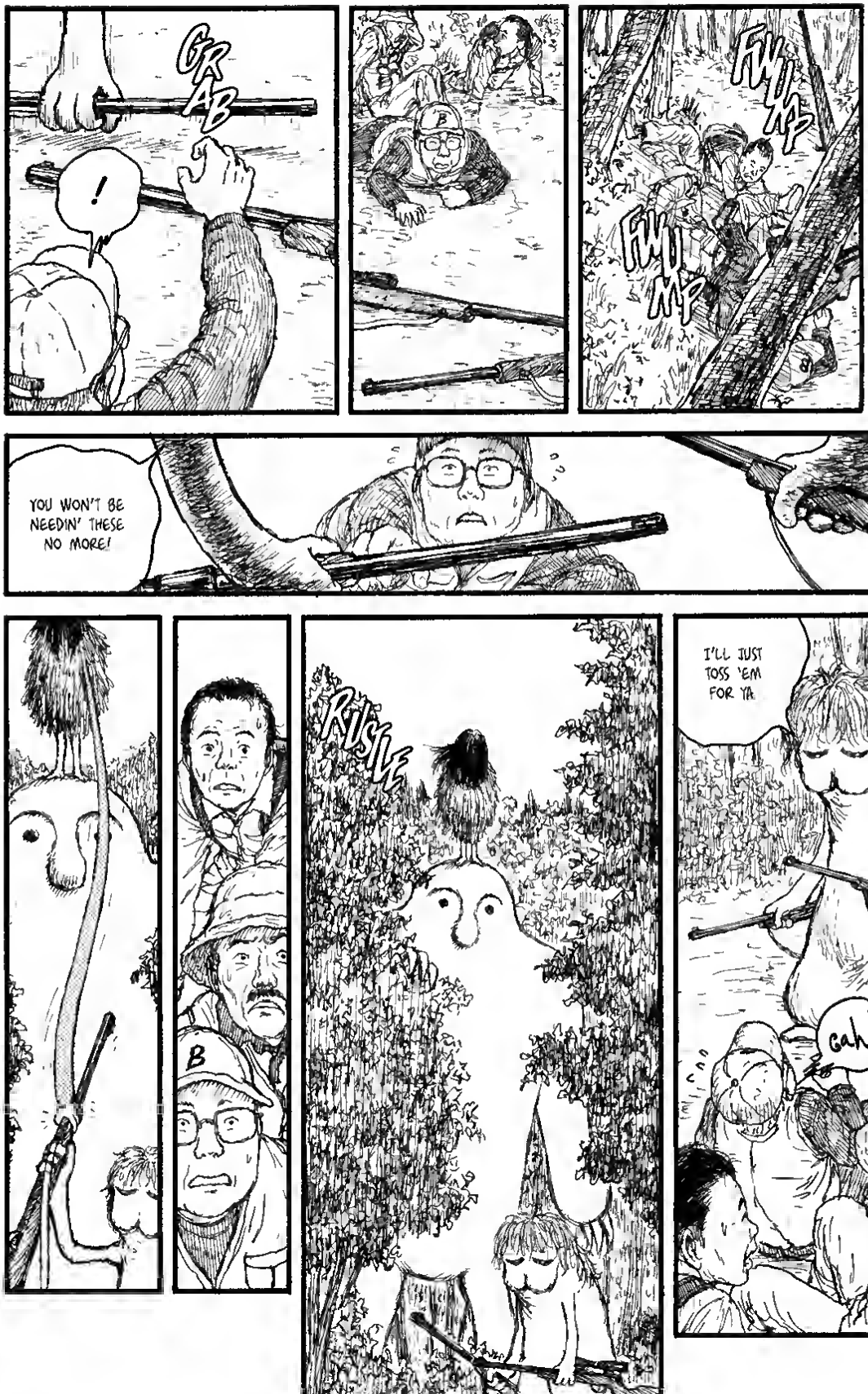

JABBER
JABBER
WHISPER
WHISPER
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
BLAH
BLAH
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
JABBER
HEY WAIT... WHY'M I STILL USING THIS FORM?
Eek!
THAT WAY!

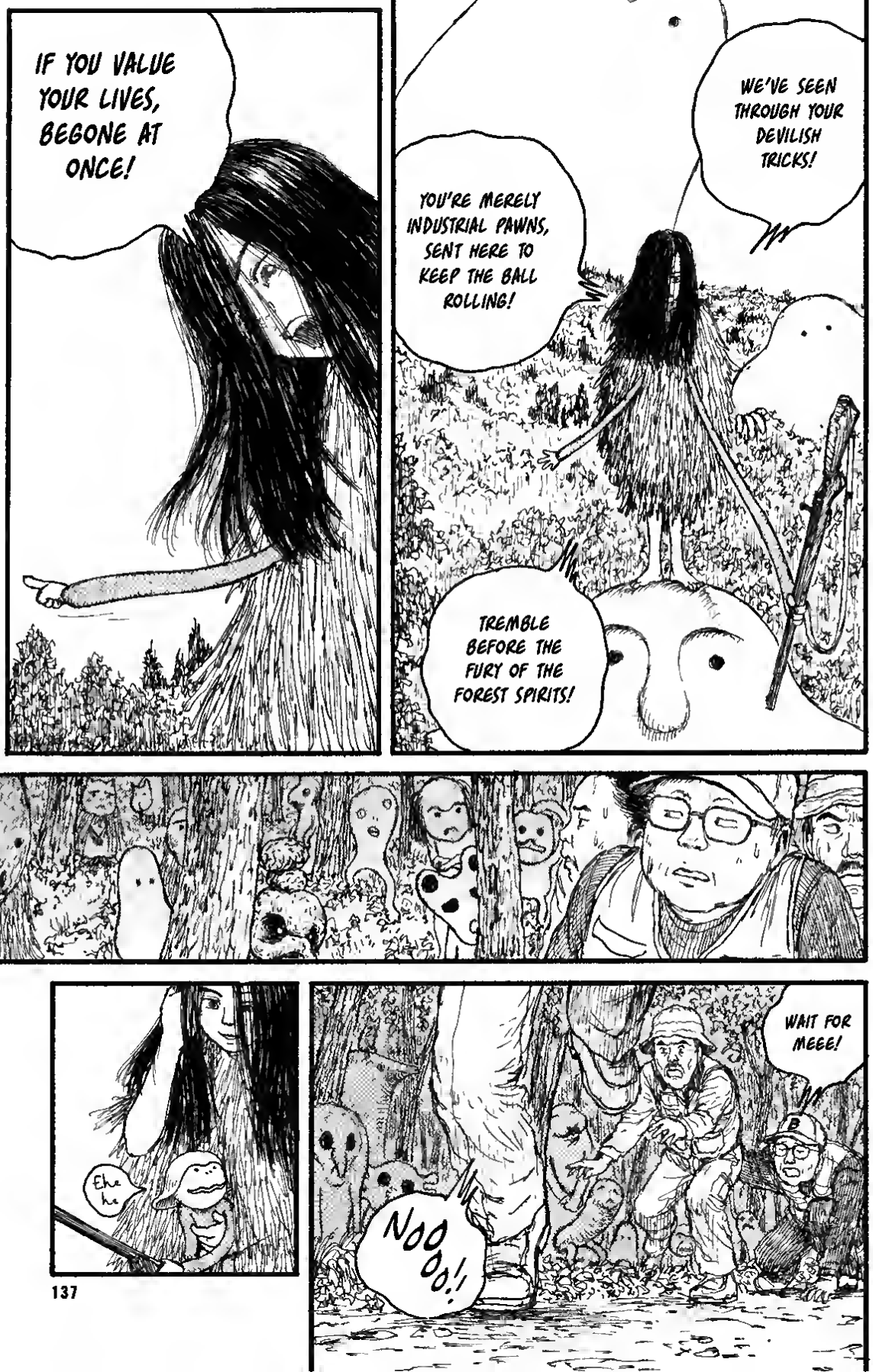
GLISH
I'M SURE I SAW IT GO THIS WAY...
DAGBLASTIT!
GLUG
GLUG
WHOSE WATER DO YA THINK YOU'RE DRINKING?
...
!
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
!!
WAH!

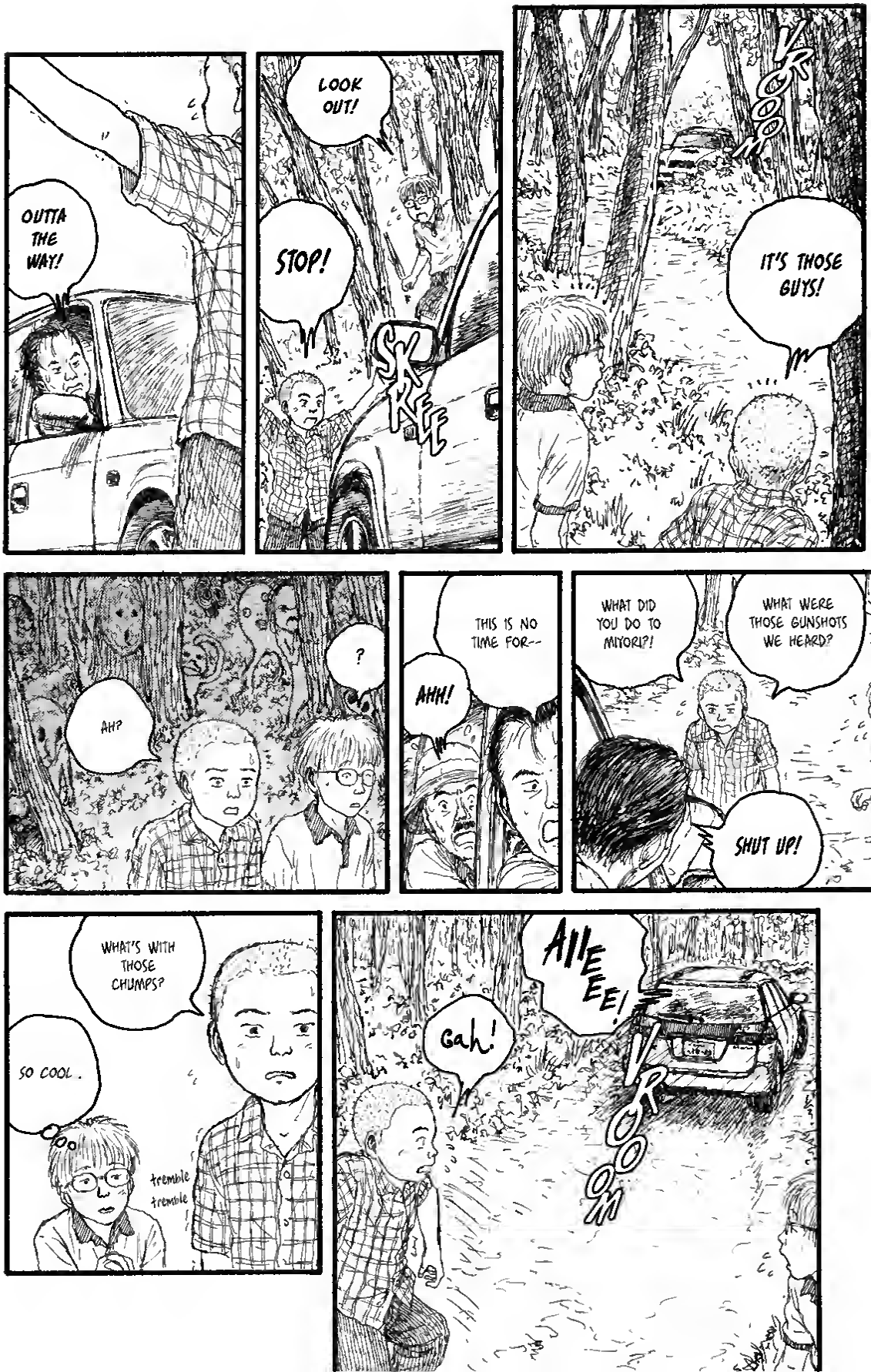
AAAHH
YAAAAHH
WOOOOSH
WOOOOOSH

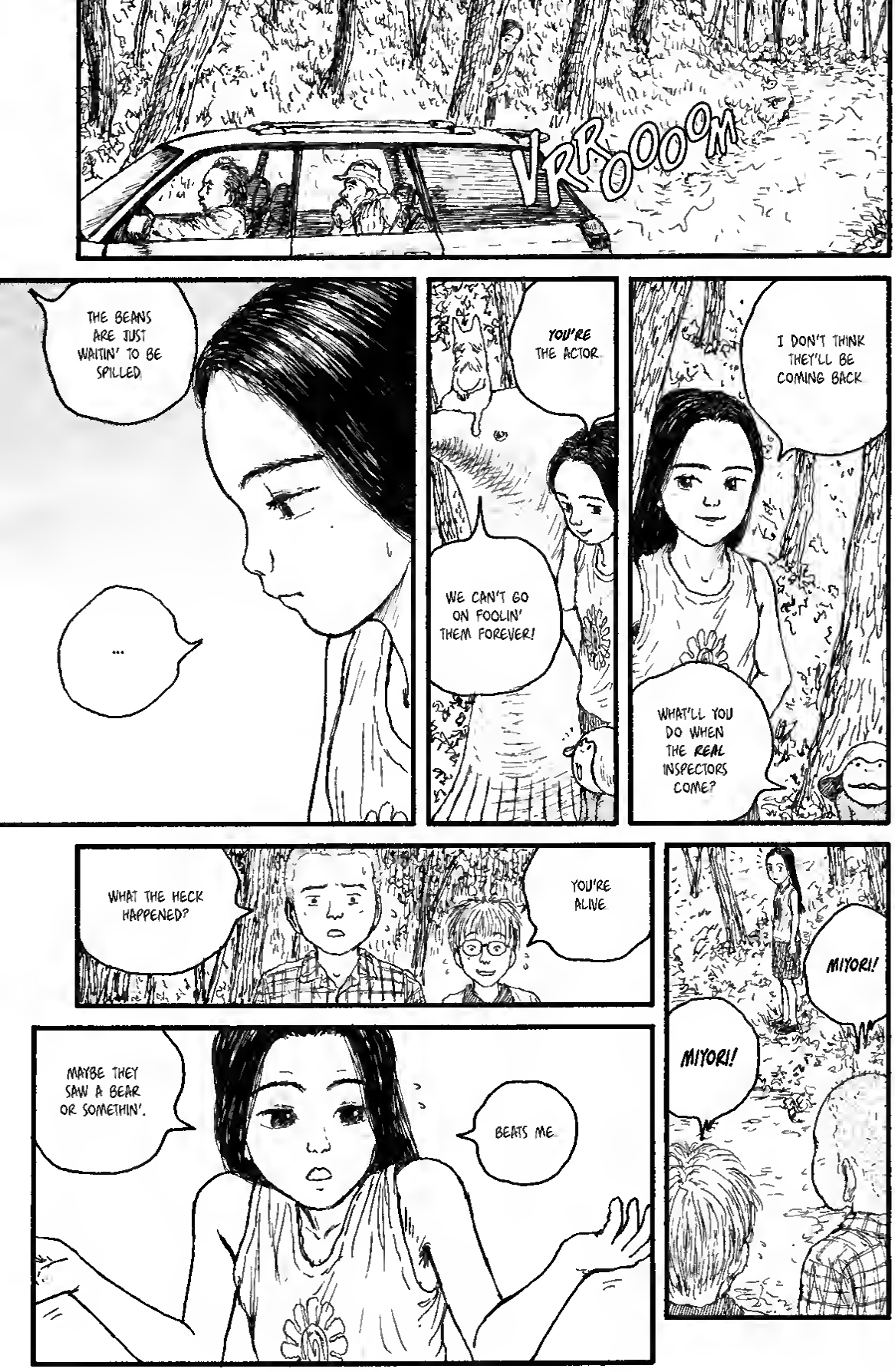

SLIDE
SLIDE
WHOA!
YARGH!
MONSTER ?!
!!

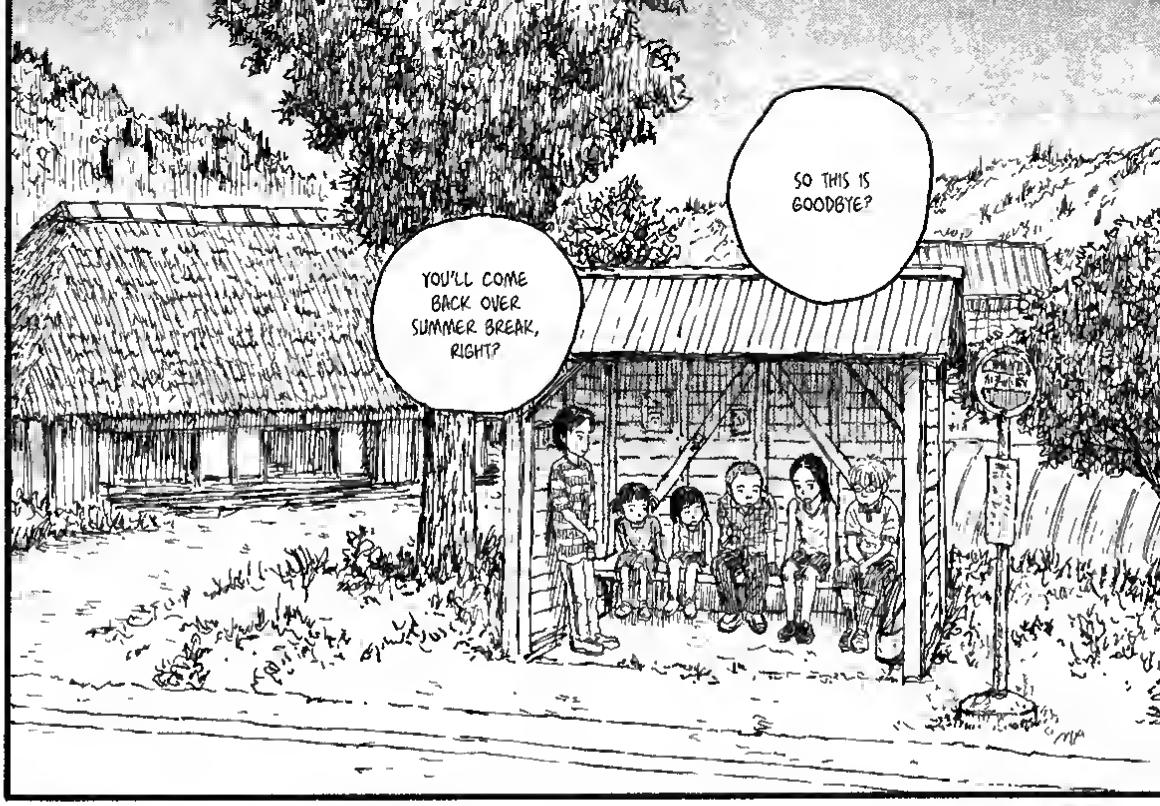

HEY.
THERE'S A... MONSTER AFTER US AND..
Y-YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US!
DID YOU SAY...
WH-WHAT IS THAT THING?!
YEECH!

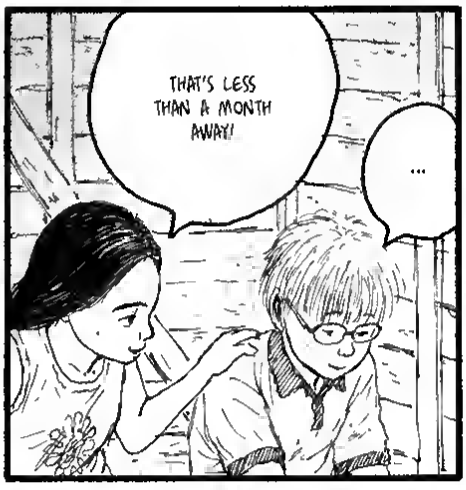

GRAB
!
FWUMP
FWUMP
YOU WON'T BE NEEDIN' THESE NO MORE!
RUSTLE
I'LL JUST TOSS 'EM FOR YA
Gah!


IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES, BEGONE AT ONCE!
WE'VE SEEN THROUGH YOUR DEVILISH TRICKS!
YOU'RE MERELY INDUSTRIAL PAWNS, SENT HERE TO KEEP THE BALL ROLLING!
TREMBLE BEFORE THE FURY OF THE FOREST SPIRITS!
Ehe he
WAIT FOR MEEE!
NOOO!!


OUTTA THE WAY!
LOOK OUT!
STOP!
SKKEE
VROOOM
IT'S THOSE GUYS!
AH?
?
THIS IS NO TIME FOR--
AHH!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO MIYORI?!
WHAT WERE THOSE GUNSHOTS WE HEARD?
SHUT UP!
WHAT'S WITH THOSE CHUMPS?
SO COOL.
tremble tremble
AIIEEE!
Gah!
VROOOM

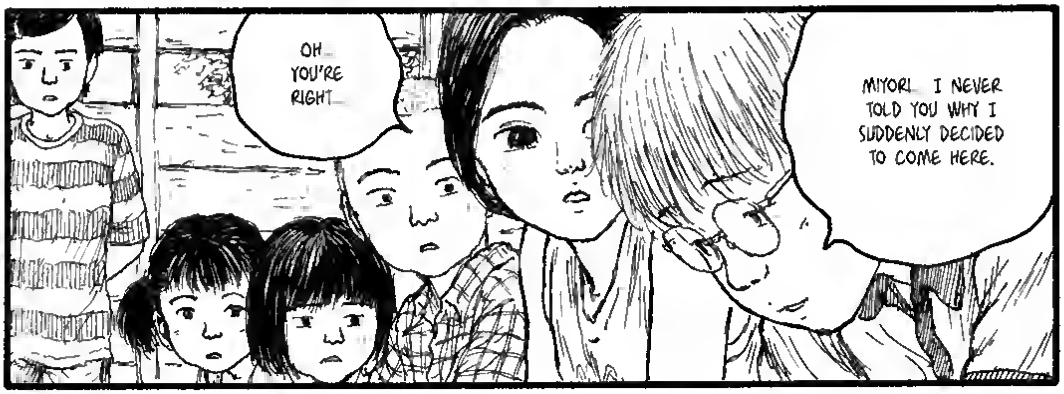

VRROOOOM
THE BEANS ARE JUST WAITIN' TO BE SPILLED
...
YOU'RE THE ACTOR
WE CAN'T GO ON FOOLIN' THEM FOREVER!
I DON'T THINK THEY'LL BE COMING BACK
WHAT'LL YOU DO WHEN THE REAL INSPECTORS COME?
WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED?
YOU'RE ALIVE
MAYBE THEY SAW A BEAR OR SOMETHIN'.
BEATS ME.
MIYORI!
MIYORI!


SO THIS IS GOODBYE?
YOU'LL COME BACK OVER SUMMER BREAK, RIGHT?

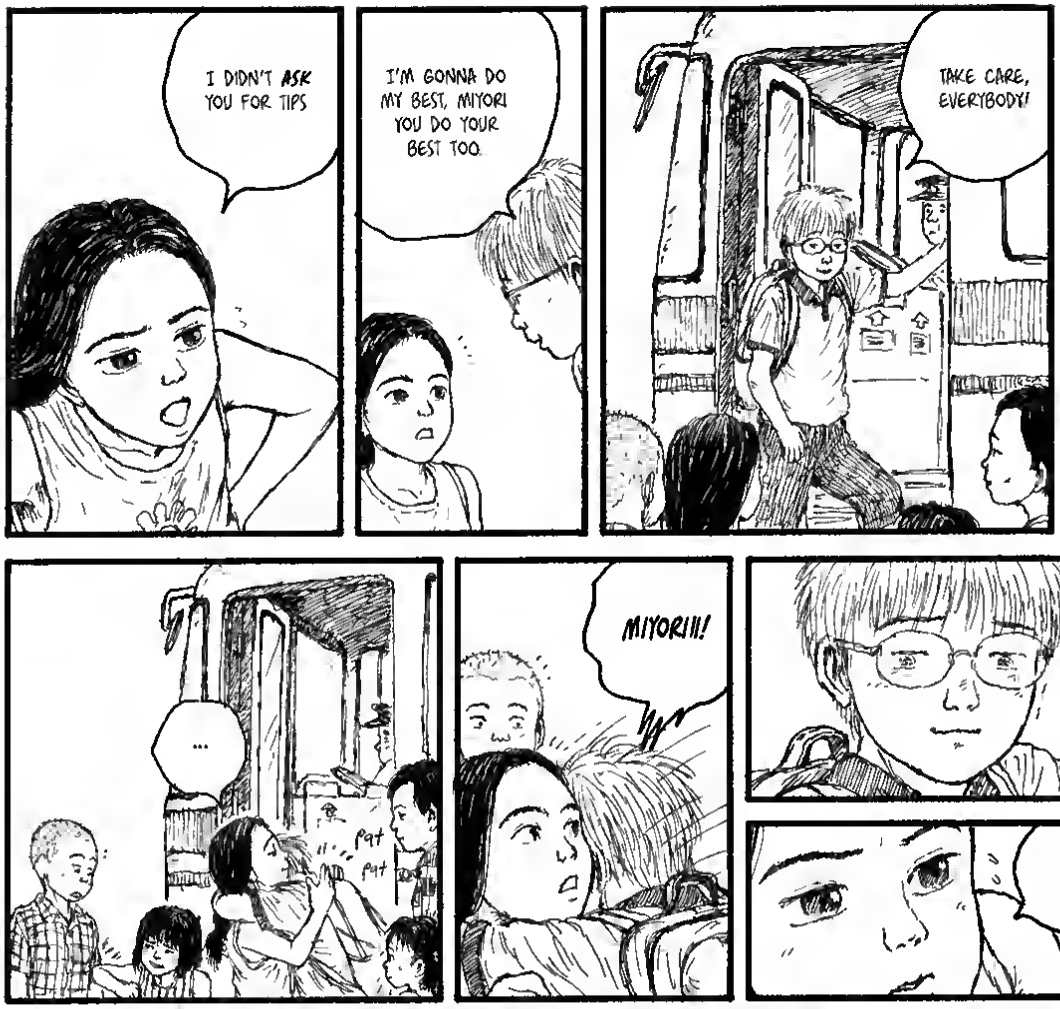

THAT'S LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY!
...

SURE. THANKS.

YEAH, BUDDY, COME ON DOWN THIS SUMMER AN' I'LL SHOW YA THE REST OF THE WOODS.

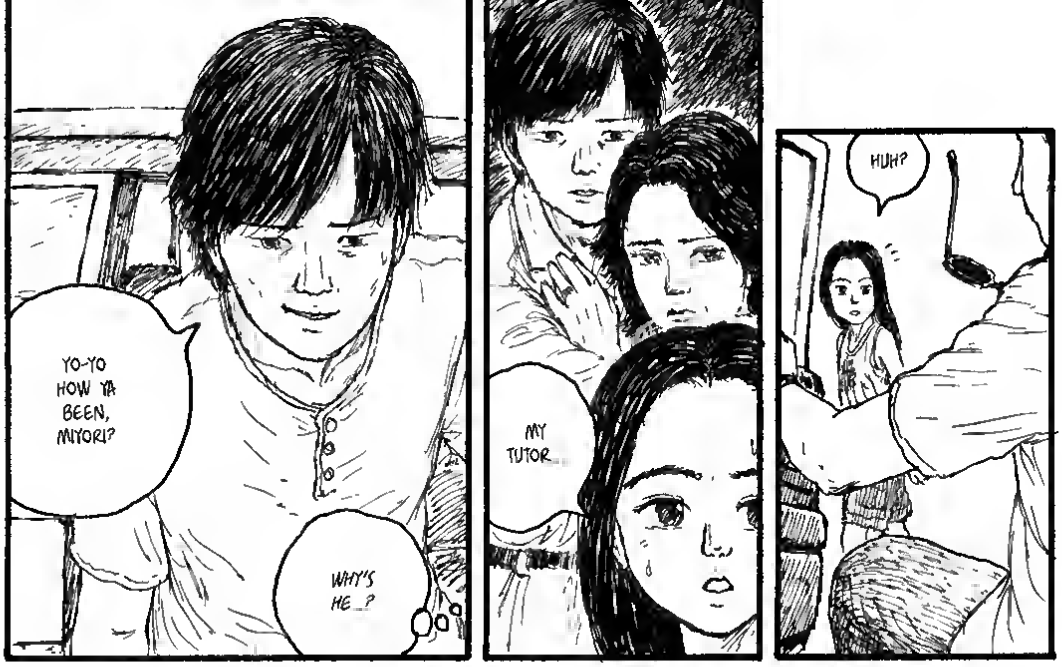

OH... YOU'RE RIGHT.
MIYORI... I NEVER TOLD YOU WHY I SUDDENLY DECIDED TO COME HERE.

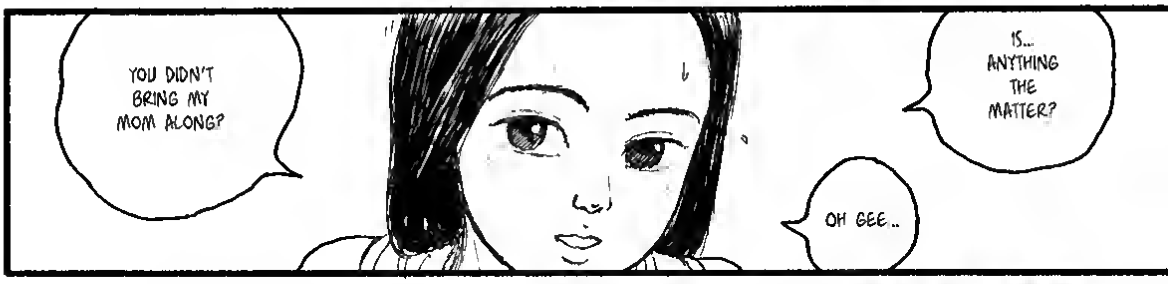
...
AIN'T NO PICNIC OUT IN THE CITY, HUH?
SOUNDS SCARY.
...
BUT IT'S OKAY! FROM NOW ON I'M GONNA FIGHT BACK, JUST LIKE YOU!
WELL, RIGHT AFTER YOU LEFT, ALL THE KIDS WHO USED TO BULLY YOU STARTED TO TARGET ME...
OH, I'M SUCH A LOSER...
OH...
sniff
I CAME HERE TO ESCAPE THEM
nudge
UM, WHAT?
I'M GONNA GET TOUGH SO I CAN PROTECT YOU, JUST LIKE DAISUKE!
WELP, THERE'S THE BUS!
AND THEN I'LL... I'LL...



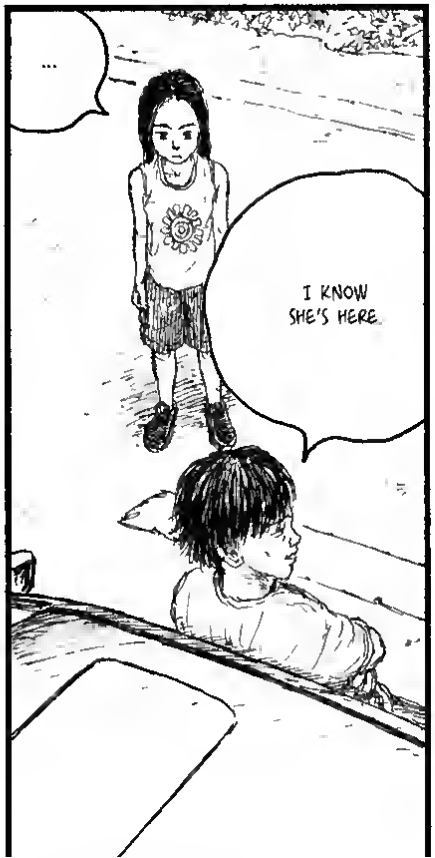
Bus Koromogawa Village

...
OR ANYONE ELSE, FOR THAT MATTER.
HOW STRANGE... I NEVER GAVE ANY THOUGHT TO YUKIHITO.
I'M REALLY GONNA DO MY BEST, MIYORI. I MEAN IT.
SKREE


YO-YO HOW YA BEEN, MIYORI?
WHY'S HE_?
MY TUTOR
HUH?


YOU DIDN'T BRING MY MOM ALONG?
OH GEE..
IS... ANYTHING THE MATTER?

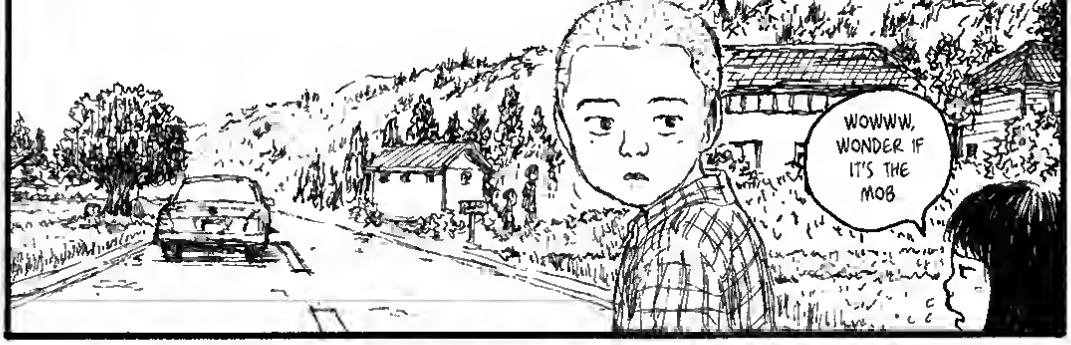
HWA?

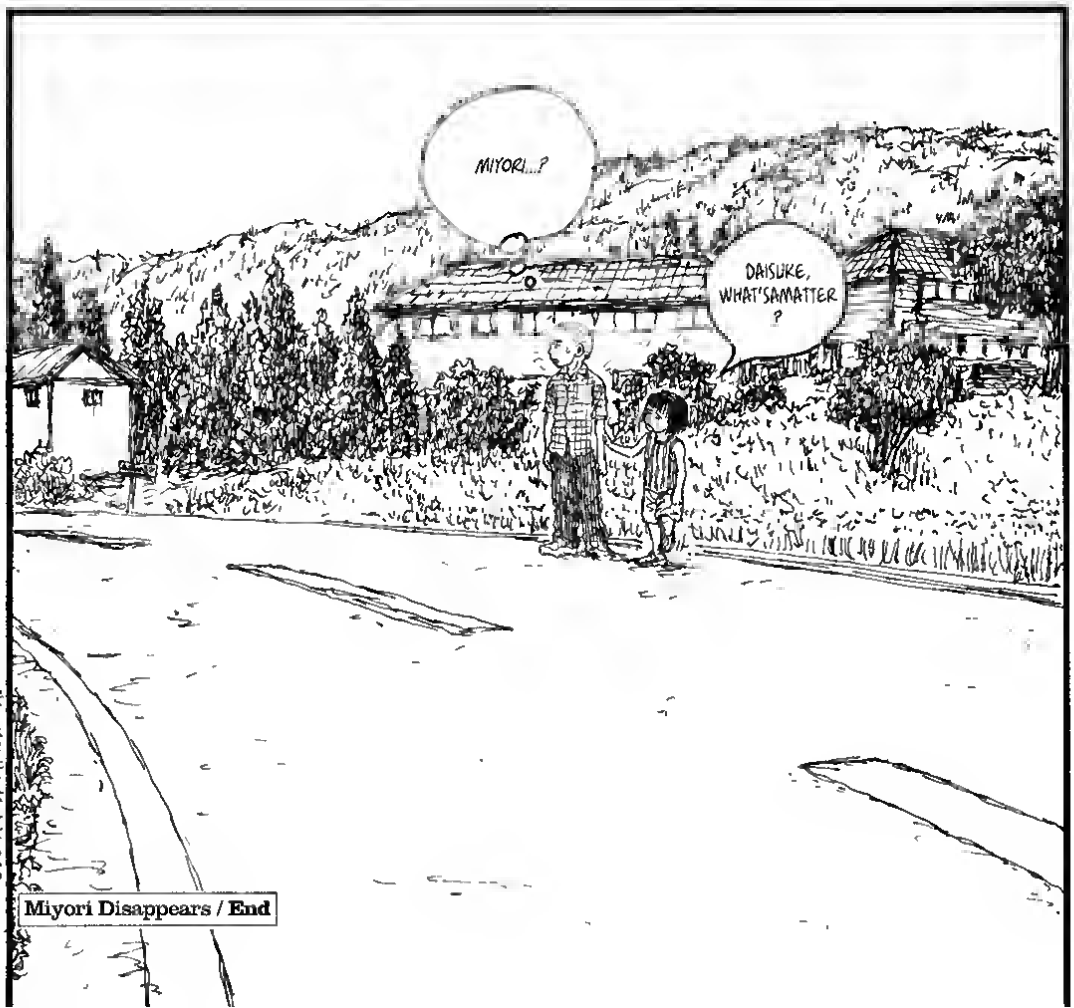

...
I KNOW SHE'S HERE

HEH.. YOU ALWAYS WERE A LIAR

YOU ALREADY KNOW
SORRY?

LOOKS LIKE WE GOTS A LOVE TRIANGLE ON OUR HANDS.
WH-WHAT?
DAISUKE!
SUMMER BREAK'S GONNA BE FUN.
He he he
SLAM
VROOM...
...
HEY, A MERCEDES!





Miyori Disappears / End

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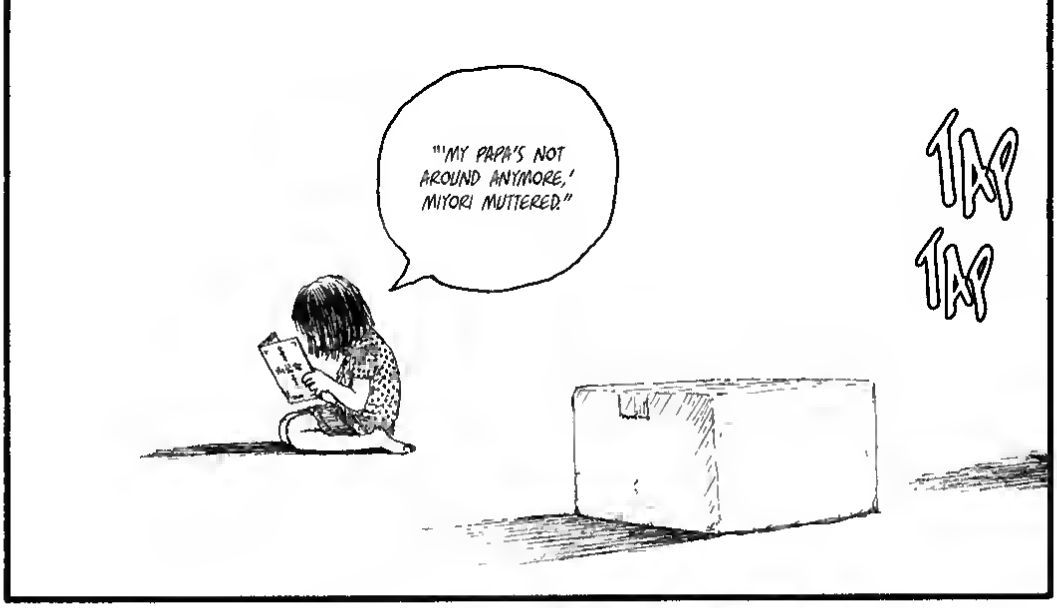
Story 7
Led by an Unseen Power

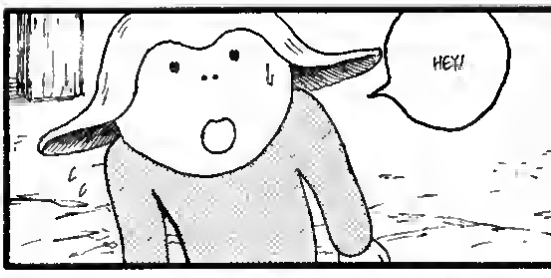


Book: *A Little Princess* (a 1905 children's novel by Frances H. Burnett)

DISGUSTING CRAP!
"...HAD DIED WHEN SHE WAS JUST A LITTLE GIRL."
HEY, HERE'S SOME MORE!
"MIYORI'S KIND AND BEAUTIFUL FRENCH MOTHER.
SO YOU'D BETTER EAT UP!
COME ON, OPEN WIDE!
HURG
HURG
"COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED, MIYORI HEADED FOR THE ATTIC."
"OPENING THE DOOR WOULD LEAD HER INTO A VAST, MAGICAL KINGDOM... OR SO SHE WISHED."
HEY!
"WITHIN THE COLD, GRAY ROOM LAY AN UNLIT FIREPLACE, STILL A STRANGER TO WARMTH..."
MIYORI!
GODDAMMIT!
SQUISH
MIYORI!
"BUT SHE MOURNED NOT HER FATHER'S DEATH."
"MISS MINCHIN WORKED MIYORI HARD ALL THE LIVELONG DAY."
MIYORI!

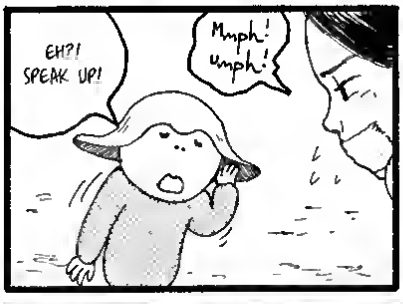
...
Y'ALL RIGHT?

...


HEY!

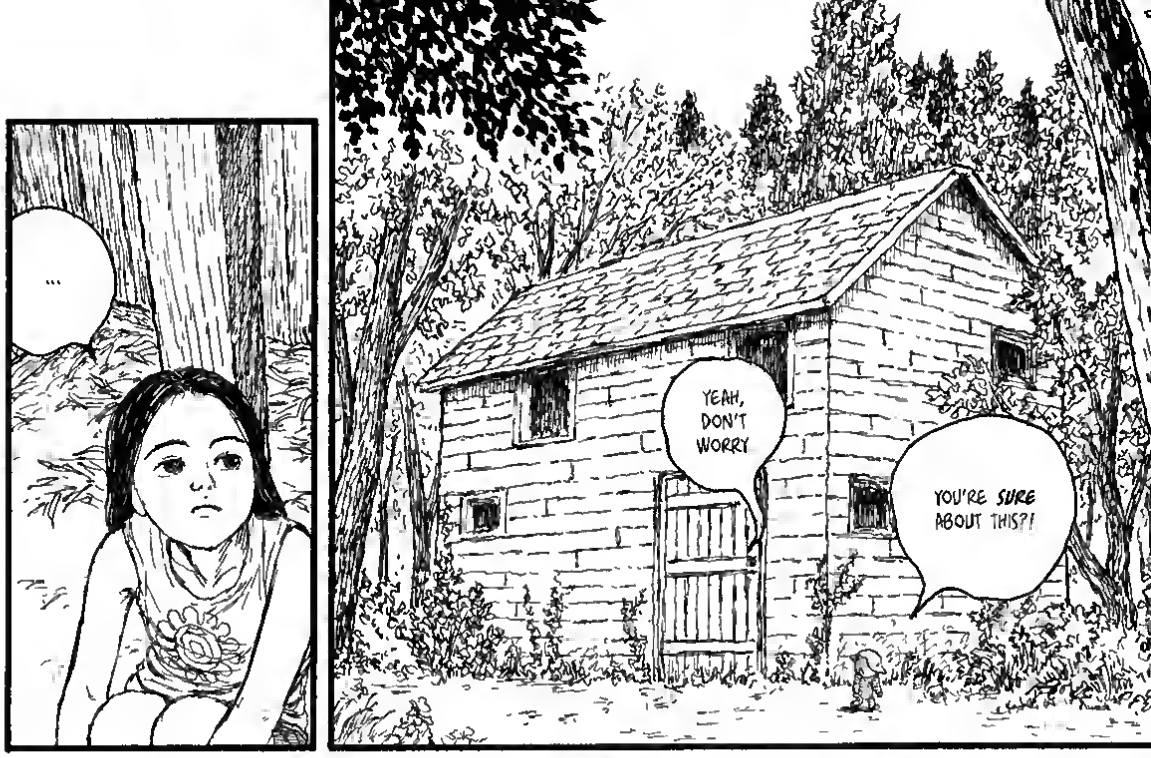
Blah
YOU SURE KNOW SOME NICE PEOPLE.

RUB RUB RUB


EH?! SPEAK UP!
Mmph! umph!

OH, RIGHT.
NNRNG

...
THAT HARDLY SEEMS RELEVANT...
YOU'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE PRONTO!
WOW... THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER FAINTED
...
WHO IS THAT GUY?
I THINK I'LL SEE THIS THROUGH TO THE END
NO, IT'S OKAY
WHA?!
...
I'M PRETTY SURE HE JUST WANTS TO SEE MY MOM.
ARE YOU *NUTS?!*
IT'S YOUR FUNERAL.
DON'T COME CRAWLING BACK TO ME WHEN YOU'RE DEAD!

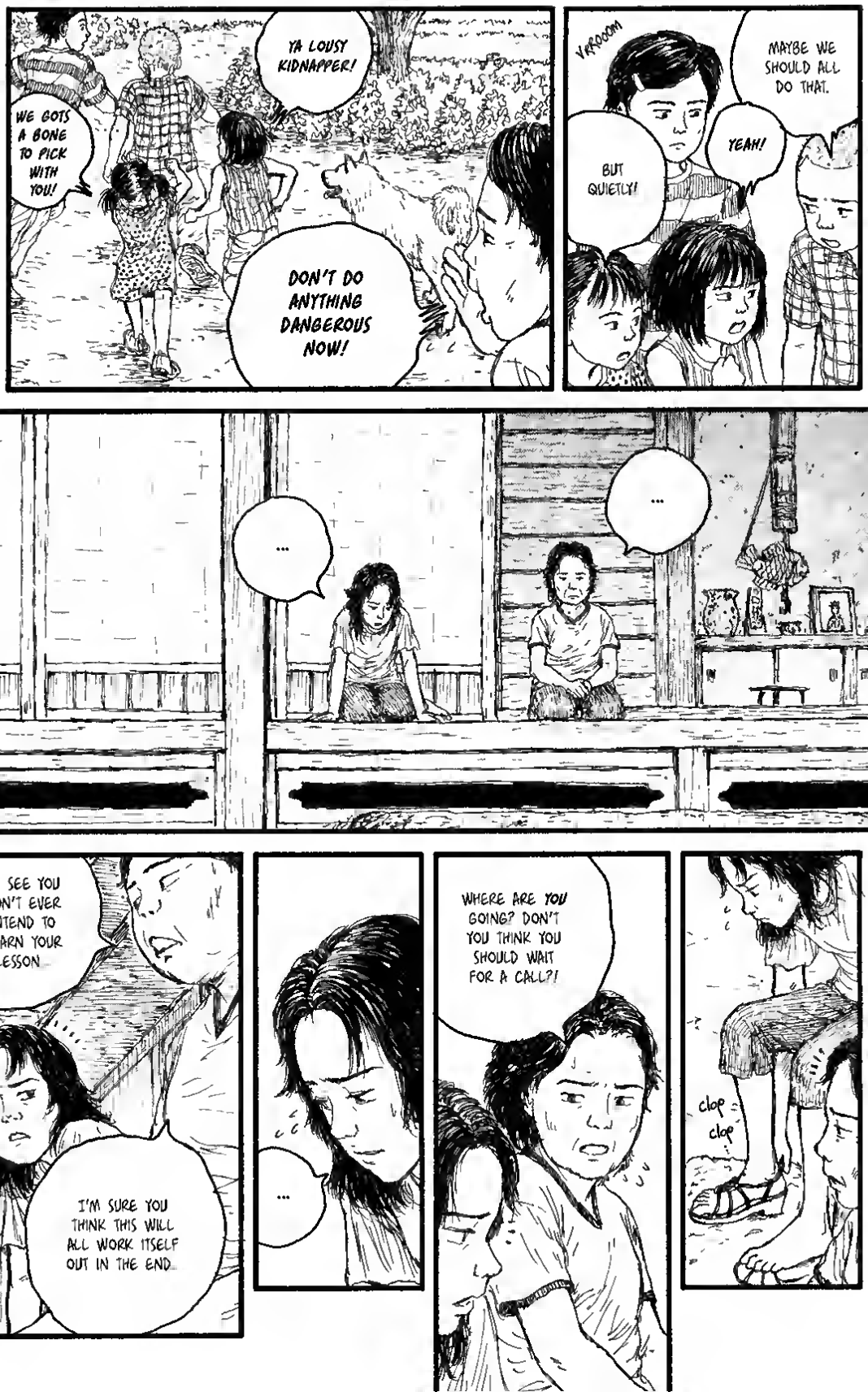

...
YEAH, DON'T WORRY
YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS?!

ER... WHITE?
IT WAS A MERCEDES? WHAT COLOR?
IT WAS SILVER! SILVER!

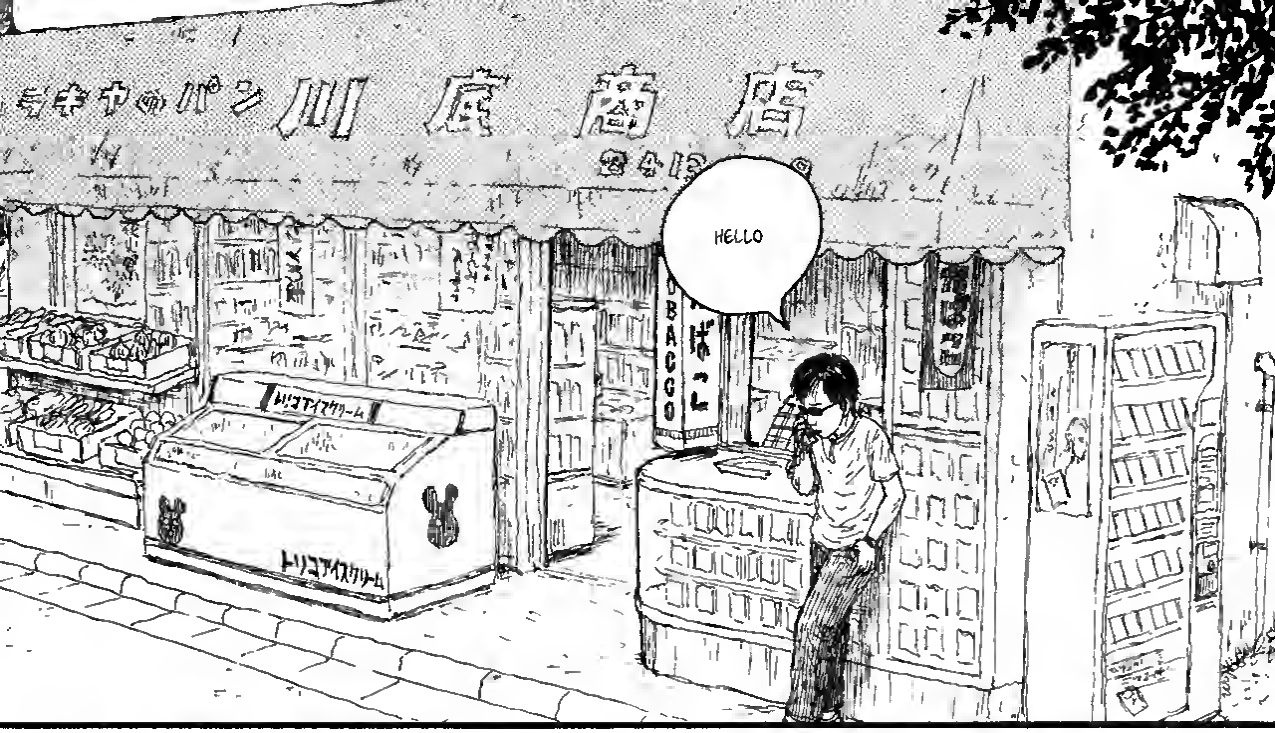
A KIDNAP-PING?!
THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!
IT'S HIM!
THE TUTOR?

SILVER, RIGHT?!
BUT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE--
I WON'T SAY NOTHIN', JUST CHECKIN' AROUND
SLAM

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
THE POLICE!


YA LOUSY KIDNAPPER!
WE GOTS A BONE TO PICK WITH YOU!
DON'T DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS NOW!
VAROOOM
MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL DO THAT.
YEAH!
BUT QUIETLY!
...
...
I SEE YOU DON'T EVER INTEND TO LEARN YOUR LESSON.
I'M SURE YOU THINK THIS WILL ALL WORK ITSELF OUT IN THE END.
...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD WAIT FOR A CALL?!
clop clop

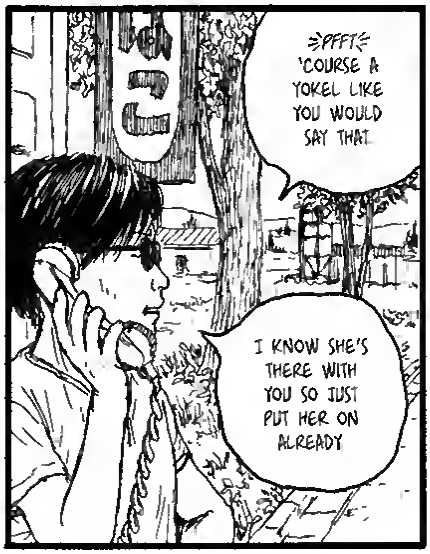
WELL, NOT TO WORRY!
THE FOREST WILL PROTECT HER!
...
IF ONLY YOU REALIZED THAT IT'S OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING IT OUT FOR YOU.
HMPH! THAT'S SO CORNY I COULD PUKE!
THEY SURE LOVE MIYORI A LOT.
HUH?!
NOT TO MENTION THOSE OTHER CHILDREN.
BRRING
DO YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS?
..STUPID OLD HAG! I HATE YOU!
YOU MAKE MY DAMN SKIN CRAWL!


HELLO
TOBACCO
トリコアイスクリーム

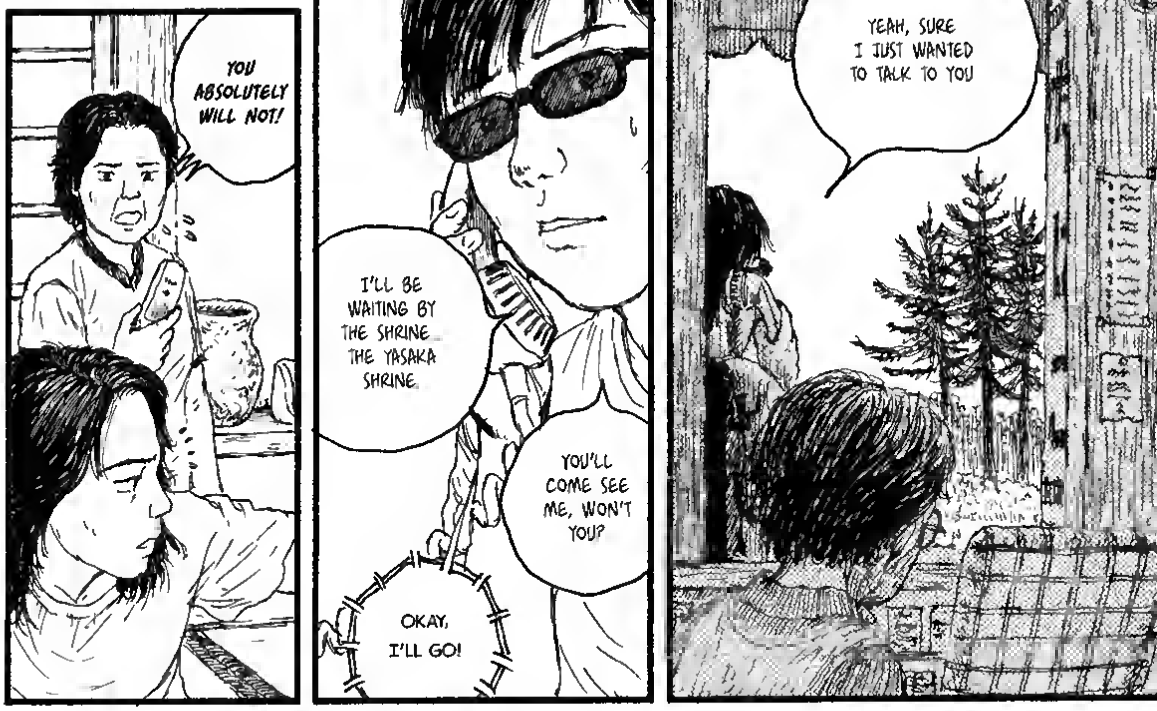
TOBACCO
WHA...? HOW DID YOU...?

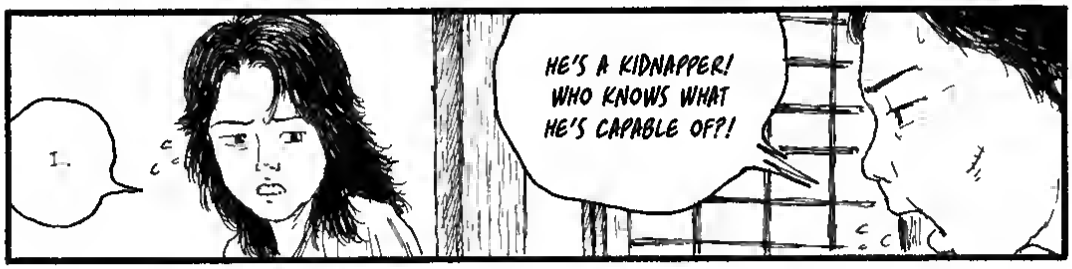
YOU'RE MIYORI'S TUTOR, AREN'T YOU?

WHERE'S MIYORI? IS SHE WITH YOU? IS SHE SAFE?

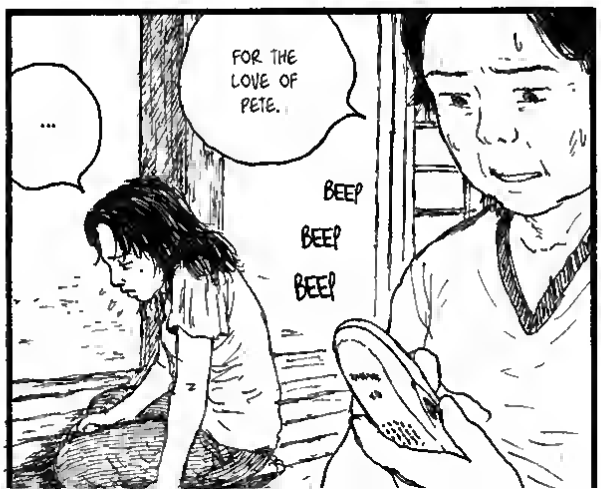

=PFFT= 'COURSE A YOKEL LIKE YOU WOULD SAY THAT
I KNOW SHE'S THERE WITH YOU SO JUST PUT HER ON ALREADY

MIYORI HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS
WHY ARE YOU INVOLVING HER?

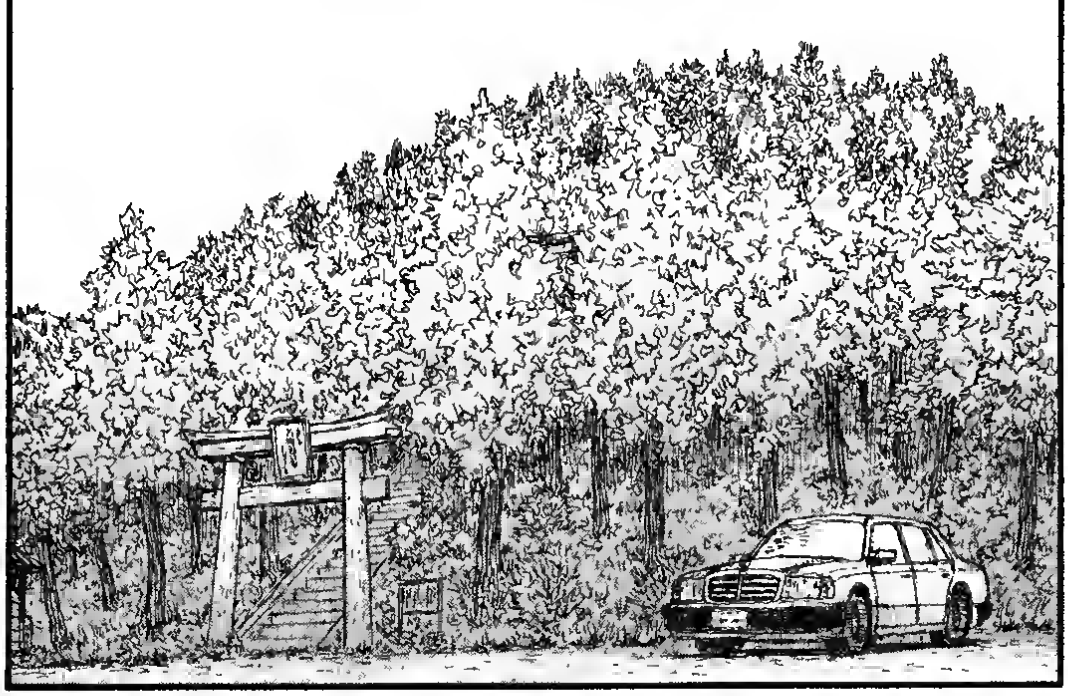

YOU ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT!
I'LL BE WAITING BY THE SHRINE... THE YASAKA SHRINE.
YOU'LL COME SEE ME, WON'T YOU?
OKAY, I'LL GO!
YEAH, SURE I JUST WANTED TO TALK TO YOU


I.
HE'S A KIDNAPPER! WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF?!

MIYORI IS MY DAUGHTER!


...
FOR THE LOVE OF PETE.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

SIGH
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE YASAKA SHRINE IS.



HERE FOR A LITTLE SIGHTSEEING, AREN'T YA? NOT MUCH TO SEE BUT A REGULAR OL' VILLAGE, THOUGH.
!

OOPS!
WELL HULLO, THERE.

HECK OF A NICE RIDE YOU GOT HERE.

HEH... SURE IS A HOT ONE, EH?
...
WHERE YA COMIN' FROM, FRIEND?

NOT GOOD

HEY...
WAIT, I TELLS YA!
VR
ROOOM

HEY... HANG ON.
BRAK
GRAK

YOU GOT ME ALL WRONG! I'M NO WEIRDO!
NO NEED TO LEAVE...
BR
OO
M

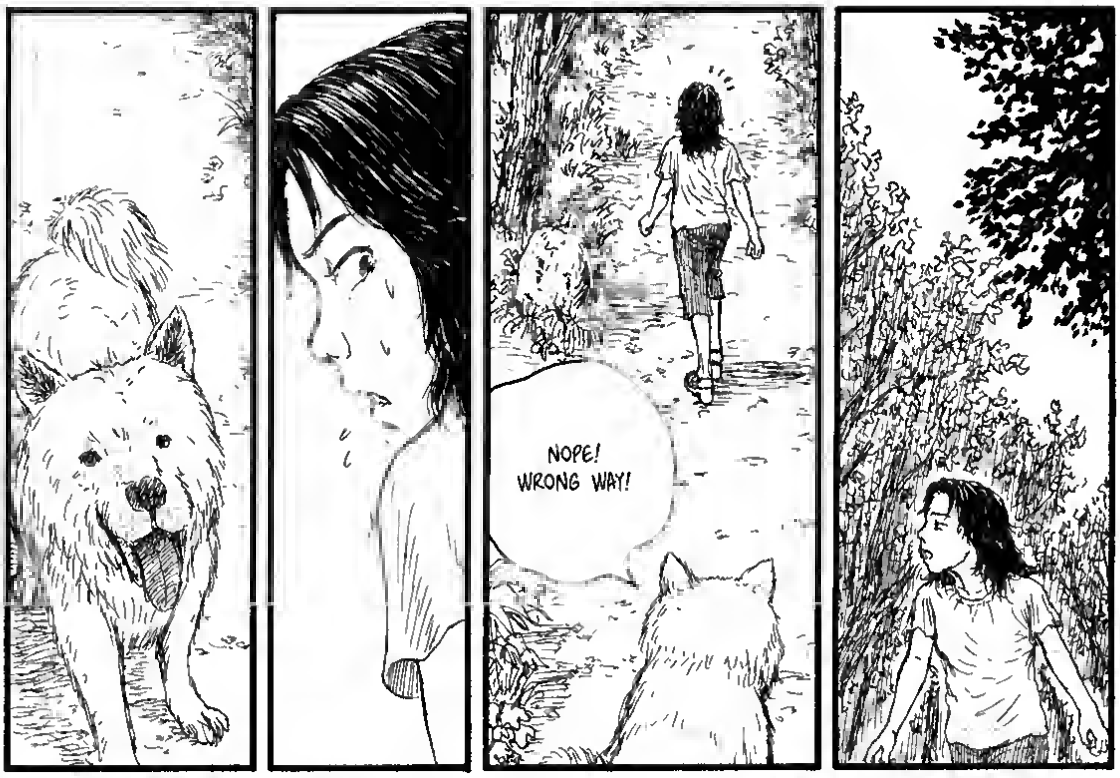
SORRY, FORCE OF HABIT...
WHY'D YOU DO THAT?!
MIGHT AS WELL SHOW HIM YOUR BADGE.

MM-HM.
OH MY...

OKAY. ALL RIGHT.
...

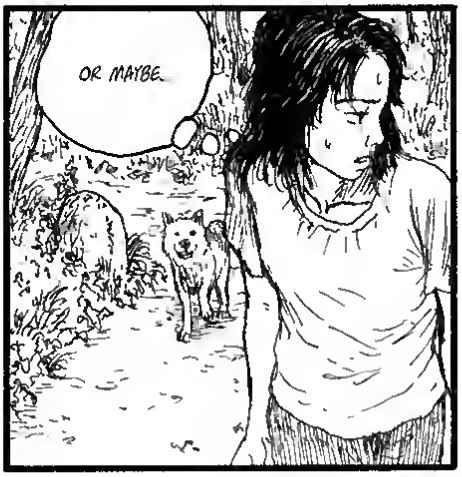
THE WESTERN WOODS, YOU SAY?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT THERE?!

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
shoo!
shoo!
haff
haff
WRONG WAY!
WHA?!
WHO WAS THAT?
IS SOMEONE THERE?
NO WAY...


NOPE!
WRONG WAY!

AHAHAHA!
...I'M BEING LED BY AN UNSEEN POWER.

AM I GOING LOOPY?


OR MAYBE...

CREE
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.
I FIGURED THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE HER COME SEE ME.
SORRY 'BOUT THIS.
!
BUT I... I BOTCHED IT UP...

CAN'T EVEN USE A CELL PHONE OUT HERE.
GODDAMMIT!
BAM
!!
WHA?
MIYORI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING OUT IN THIS HICK-TOWN?!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO--
CREE
UH-OH... ARE YOU WITH ANYONE?
I'M PRETTY SURE MY CONCERN AND MOTHERLY LOVE BROUGHT ON A MIRACLE.
HOW'D YOU

Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO MEAN
...
NO, I'M ALONE!
SO? WHAT IS IT YOU CAME TO SAY?!
CHANGE MY MIND? WHAT, AND MAKE UP WITH YOU?
I WAS JUST... WELL, I WAS WONDERING WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND
THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT
I HOPE THIS HAS BEEN EDUCATIONAL FOR YOU!
IF ONE PERSON'S FEELINGS ARE GONE, THERE'S NO MAKING UP!
MY FEELINGS FOR YOU ARE GONE. YOU GOT THAT?!

YOU THINK YOU'RE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE WHOLE WORLD, NOT TO MENTION THE WORLD ITSELF!
THAT GOES FOR BOTH OF YOU... ALWAYS PUTTING YOURSELVES FIRST!

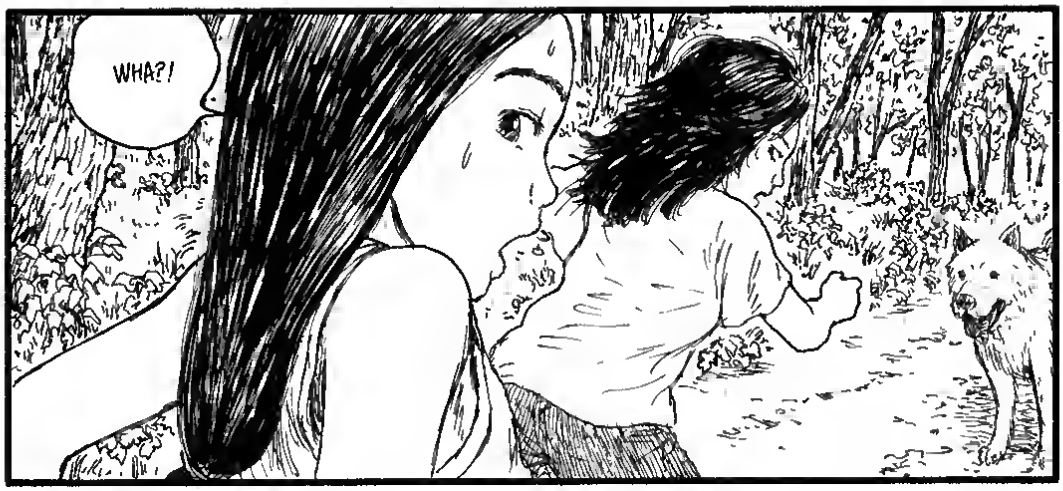
MOM'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT ROMANCE.
THAT'S ALL LIFE IS TO HER.
MIYORI...
WHEN DID YOU...?

THAT'S WHY ACTUALLY BEING A MOM IS SO LOW ON HER LAUNDRY LIST!
YOU JUST CAN'T STAND TO LIVE AS YOU ARE, CAN YOU?!

I BET YOU'VE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT ALL THE LIVING THINGS AROUND US.
BUT YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO LIVE HERE.

YOU'RE ONLY INTERESTED IN YOUR OWN GRATIFICATION, YOU--
SHUT THE HELL UP!
IT'S THAT CAR!
hatt hatt hatt
KURO
WOOF!
IT'S KURO!
RIGHT
YUKI, GO GET SOMEONE!
I THREW AWAY MY JOB FOR YOU..
PARENTS DISOWNED ME, TOO.
TOCK TOCK
MIYORI... YOU IN THERE?
KCHIK
THERE'S NO GOING BACK NOW...

IT'S ALL OVER
!
!
...
...
QUICK, MIYORI!
!!
DASH
MIYORI!
HM?
RUN!


WHA?!

N-
NAOKO!

OH, GOOD
YOU'RE OKAY

LET'S ALL DIE
TOGETHER!
Ee?!

Eek!
GRAB

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
YOU SOUND LIKE AN IDIOT!
I-I'M SERIOUS!
AIEEE EEK!
NAOKO!
!
SLUMP

I'M SURE THEY SAID THIS WAY...
NUTTIN'!
SEE ANYTHING?

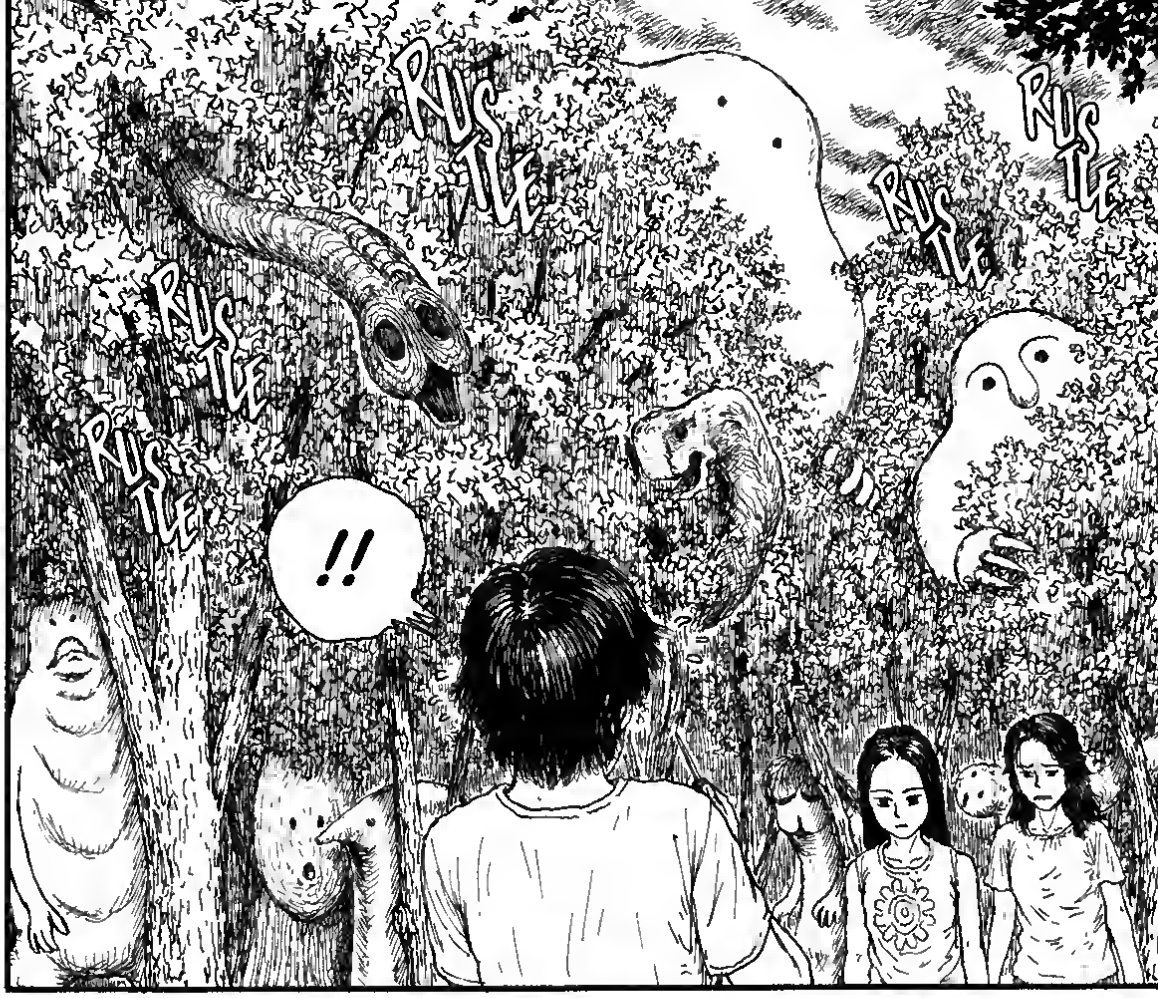
SNIFF
SNIFF
SMELL ANYTHING, KURO?

MIYOOOORI!!!
Led by an Unseen Power / End
©1980 Hideki ODA

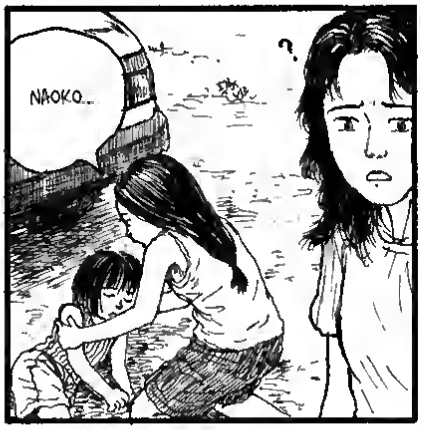
Last Story
Miyori Calls Upon the Wind

BE QUIET...
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO DO?!
THIS IS FOR REAL!
WOULD YOU JUST...
MIYORI...
KURO...
OH, RIGHT...
SHUT THE FUCK UP!
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!
THERE'S NO TALKING TO HIM NOW...

UM, SIR?
WHAT?!
THE FOREST IS GETTING ANGRY YOU SHOULD PROBABLY TOSS THE KNIFE AND GET OUT OF HERE.
GRRRR
YOU'D BETTER HURRY OR YOU'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE
GRRRR
WHA?!
THE TREES... THEY'RE QUIVERING WITH RAGE
MUR MUR MUR MUR MUR MUR MUR MUR MUR MUR
GRR- RUFF


RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
!!

EEK
ROWR
THUNK
THUD


NAOKO...
?

STAY AWAY!
ARUFF!

WOOSH
WOOSH
PANT
PANT
PANT

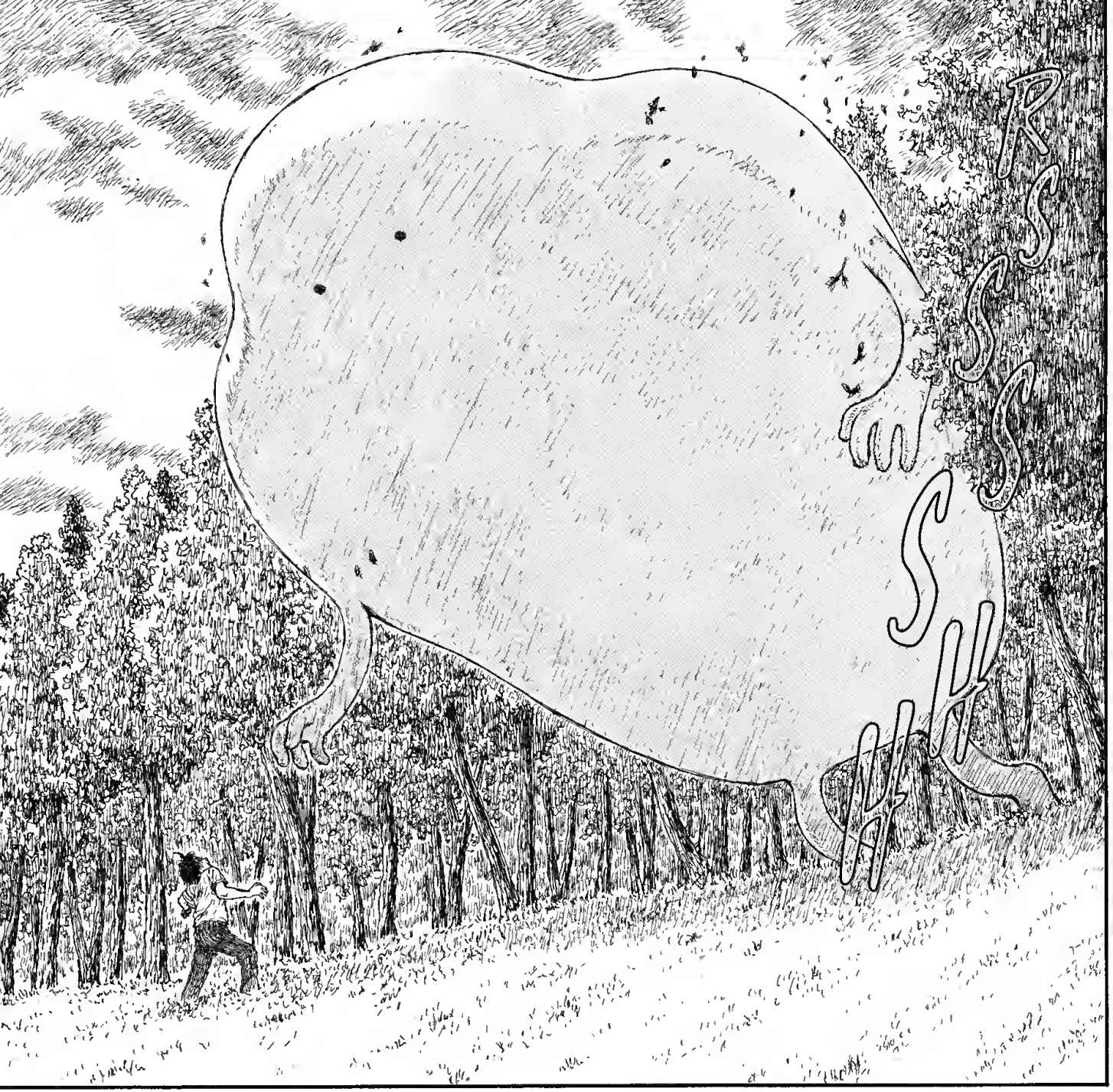
WOOOOSHHH
!!

AIEEEE!
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH

GWUH?
YOU'RE JUST THE RIGHT KIND OF MAN...

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU

H-HELP ME...
RNGH


RSSSSSH

YOU'RE MINE!
ARRRGHH!

!!

RUSTLE

AHHHH!

SHLOMP

TH-THAT'S THE GUY!
WOOF WOOF

WOOF

KRNCH

THE... THE MONSTERS THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
SO... MANY... MONSTERS!
Ehehe!
I THINK HE BROKE HIS BRAIN OR SOMETHIN'!
EY! FOUND 'IM!
A HEALTHY DIET MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE, YOU KNOW! WHAT IF YOU MOVED OUT HERE, TOO?
THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FOOD WE MAKE AND ALL THOSE CITY BURGERS AND COCA-COLA
...
MAYBE IT'S THE FOOD...
MIYORI'S LIKE A WHOLE DIFFERENT PERSON...

MIYORI, I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL WHEN I GET SETTLED THEN WE CAN.

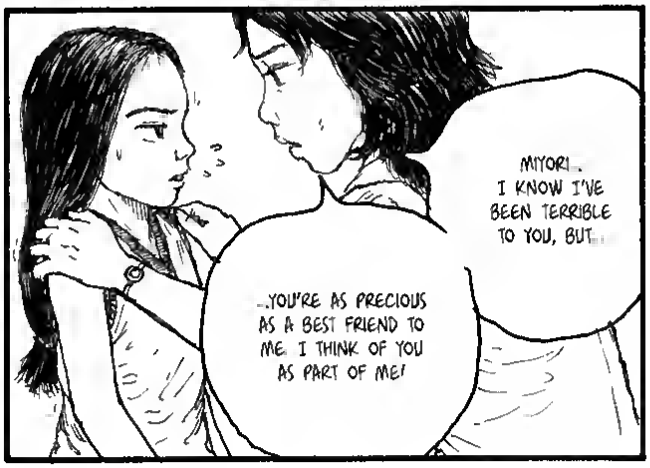
V
R
R
R
R
M
M
THUNK

...

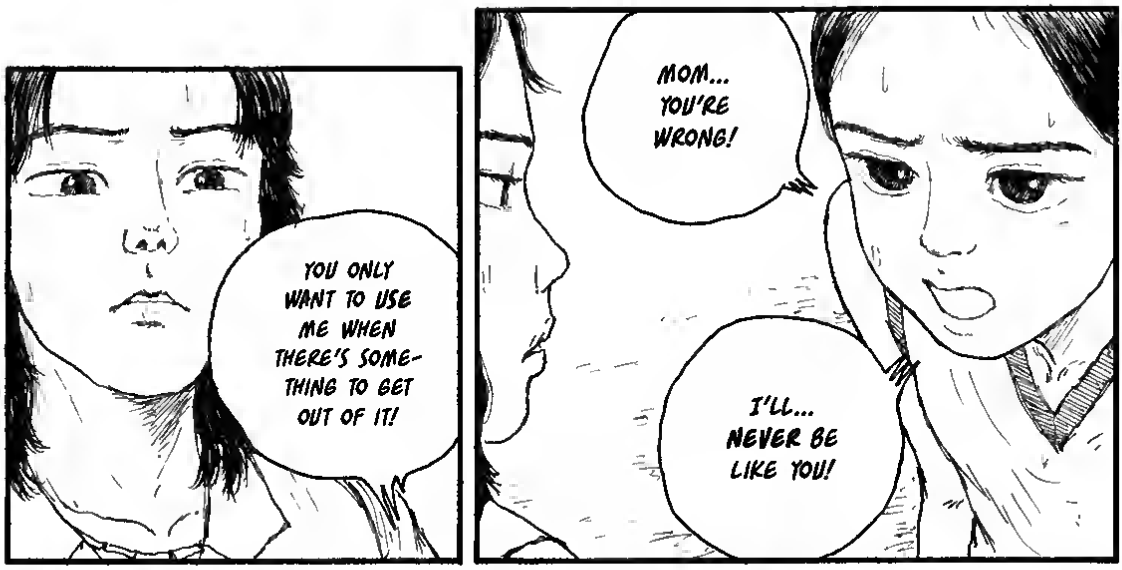
I'LL GO BACK IF IT'S WITH YOU AND DAD.
OTHERWISE, I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU ANYMORE, MOM.

I'M AFRAID YOU'VE BEEN COMPLETELY BRAINWASHED BY THAT WOMAN...
BUT RIGHT NOW YOU'RE BEING VERY FOOLISH!

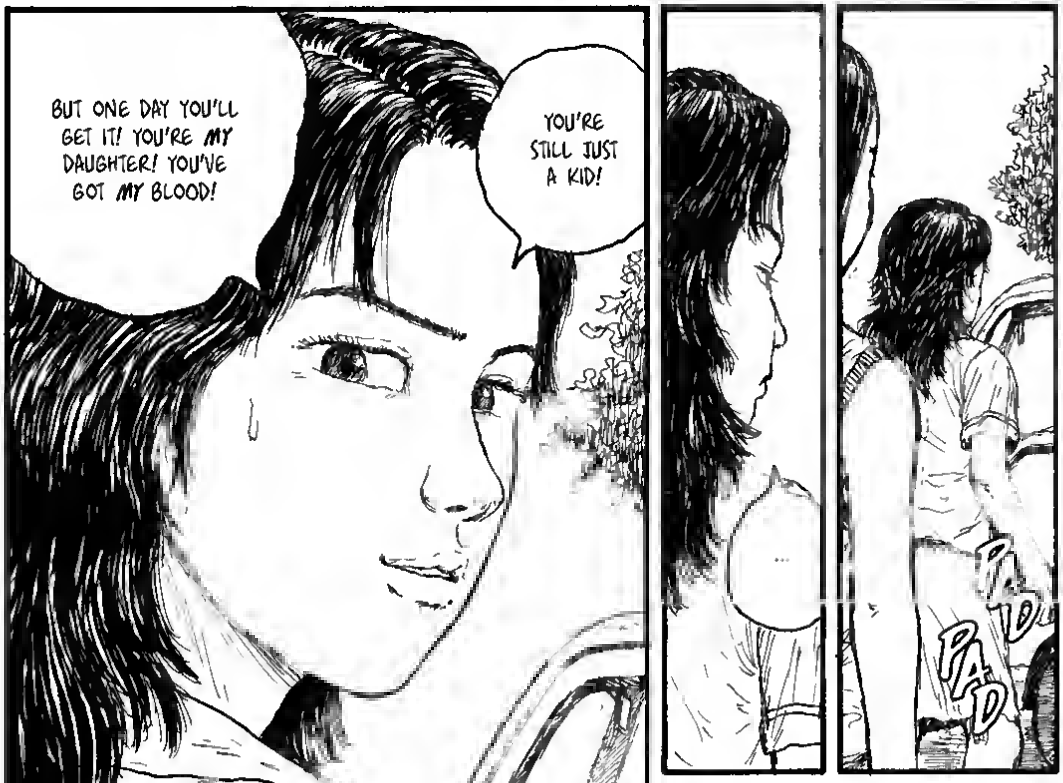
...
V
R
R
R


MIYORI... I KNOW I'VE BEEN TERRIBLE TO YOU, BUT...
...YOU'RE AS PRECIOUS AS A BEST FRIEND TO ME. I THINK OF YOU AS PART OF ME!

COME BACK TO ME, MIYORI! OPEN YOUR EYES!
IF YOU BECOME ONE OF THEM, YOUR LIFE IS OVER! YOU'LL JUST BE ANOTHER ONE OF THE IDIOTS OUT THERE!
MIYORI! YOU CAN'T TRUST IN PEOPLE'S GOOD NATURE SO EASILY!
ALWAYS MOOCHING OFF EACH OTHER, ALWAYS BEING MADE TO BITE YOUR TONGUE, EVERYBODY MEDDLING WITH EVERYBODY ELSE...
!
DON'T YOU DARE COMPARE ME TO YOU!
IT'S YOU WHO'VE BEEN BRAINWASHING ME ALL THIS TIME!
I'LL NEVER BE LIKE YOU!
...
YOU KNOW, MIYORI... PEOPLE TEND TO TURN INTO THE KIND OF PEOPLE THEY DISLIKE THE MOST!
...


YOU ONLY WANT TO USE ME WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING TO GET OUT OF IT!
MOM... YOU'RE WRONG!
I'LL... NEVER BE LIKE YOU!

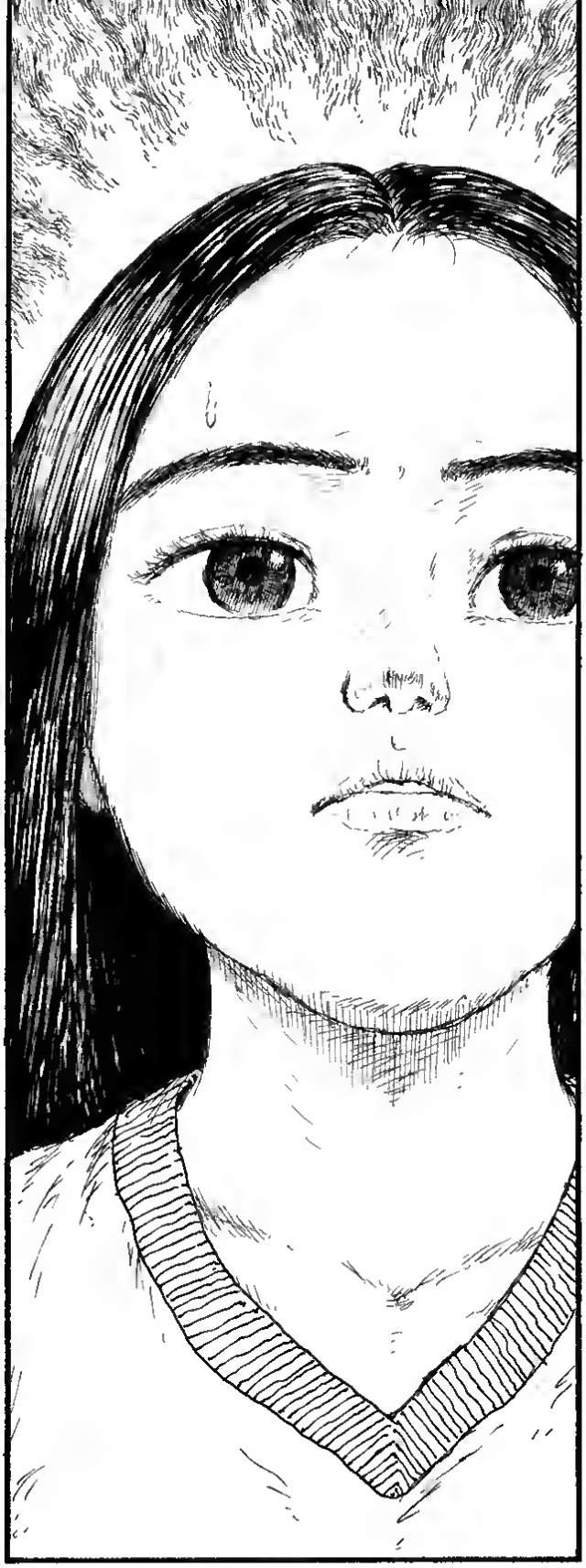
VRRRR


BUT ONE DAY YOU'LL GET IT! YOU'RE MY DAUGHTER! YOU'VE GOT MY BLOOD!
YOU'RE STILL JUST A KID!
...
PAD
PAD

A QUARTER OF THAT BLOOD BELONGS TO HER GRANDMA!

...

VR
RR
RR

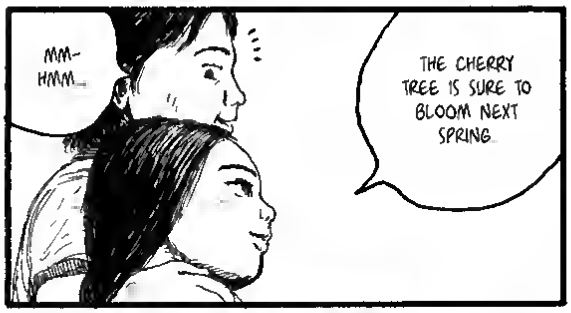


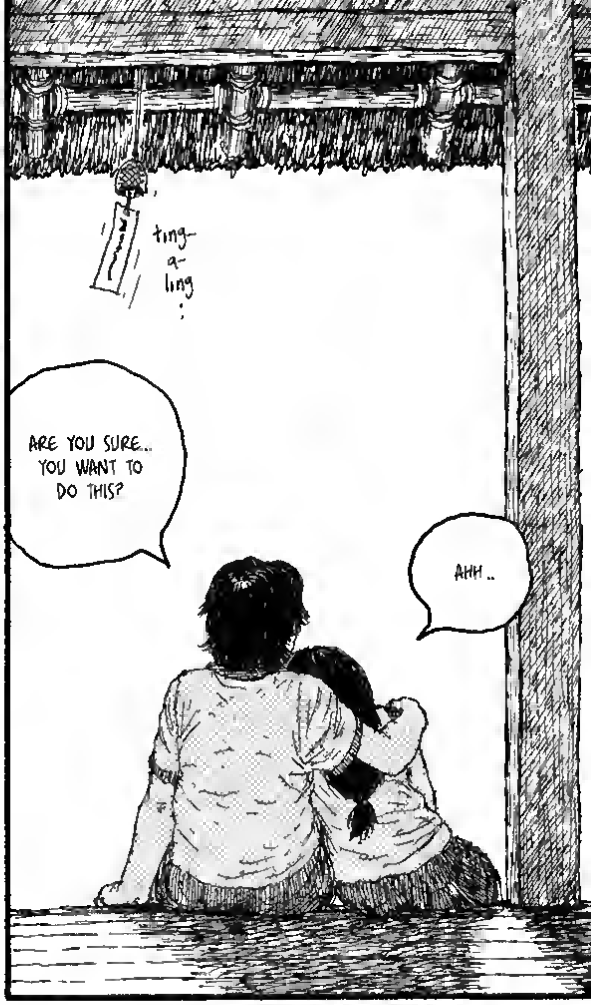
WELL, NOW, SURELY THERE'S SOMETHING THAT CAUSED HER TO END UP THAT WAY.
I'M GONNA LIVE UNTIL I'M HER AGE JUST TO PROVE HER WRONG!
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN WRONG!
...
I UNDERSTAND HER OWN MOTHER PASSED AWAY WHEN SHE WAS EVEN YOUNGER THAN YOU.
DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS THOUGH...
HUH?
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE SHE WAS BORN LIKE THAT.
WHAT?
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
BUT APPARENTLY IT WAS SUICIDE, AND NOT ONLY THAT...

Heh heh
HERE WE GO.
WH-WHAT ARE YOU...?
I CAN'T STOP...
...
WH-WHAT THE...?
AH...
HAHAHA, LOOKS LIKE THE FAUCET BROKE!
GOSH... MUST'VE BEEN SAVING UP FOR AWHILE!
I-I CAN'T STOP...
DOT
DOT
DRIP
DRIP
LET IT OUT!
HUH?
DRIP
DRIP
G-GRANDMA, IT'S NOT FUNNY!
NEVER SEEN ONES LIKE THESE BEFORE! HAHAHA!
LOOK AT THOSE TEARS!

...YEAH, I WANT TO STAY AT LEAST FOR A YEAR!

I WANT TO SEE THE FOREST IN THE FALL AND THE WINTER...
...AND THE SPRING.

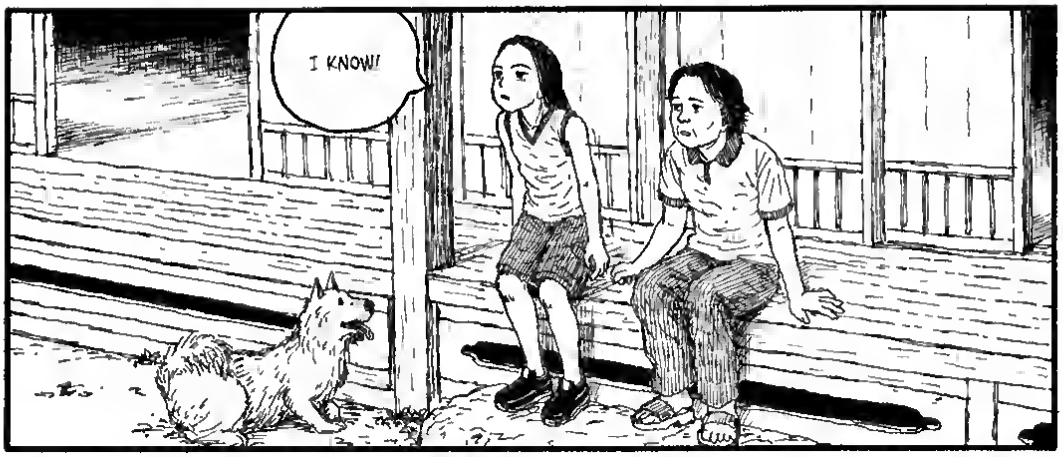

MM-HMM...
THE CHERRY TREE IS SURE TO BLOOM NEXT SPRING.

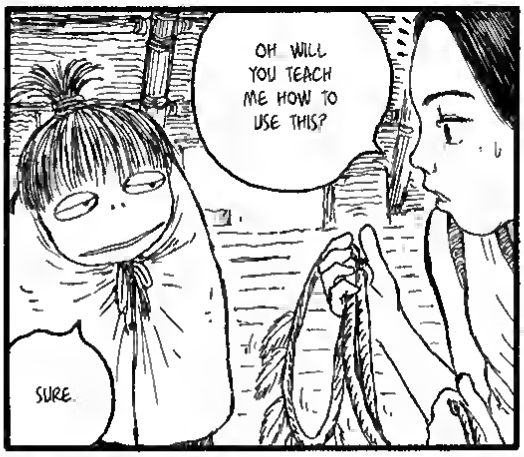

ting-a-ling
ARE YOU SURE.. YOU WANT TO DO THIS?
AHH..

THE SKY..
THE WIND..

MAYBE ONE DAY SHE'LL UNDERSTAND THAT AS WELL.
...

WELL, NO MATTER WHERE YOU END UP, WE'LL ALL BE LIVING UNDER THE SAME SKY.

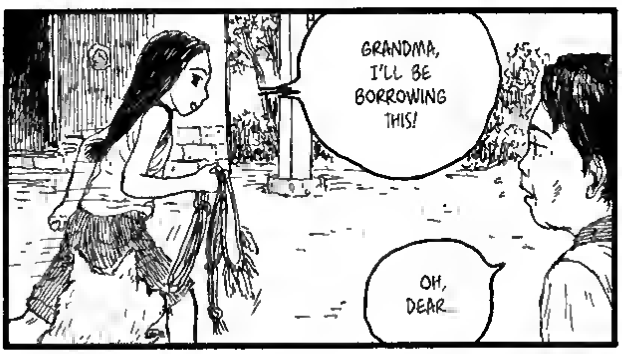

I KNOW!

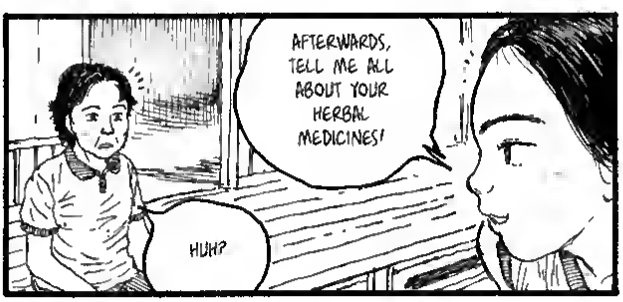

OH, WILL YOU TEACH ME HOW TO USE THIS?
SURE.

WASHI-RASHI, YOU THERE?
HM?

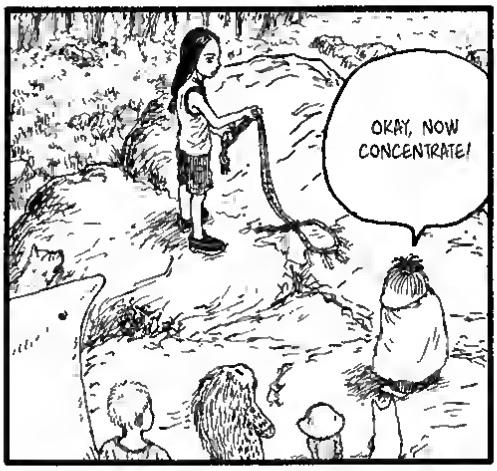
CREAK
CREAK

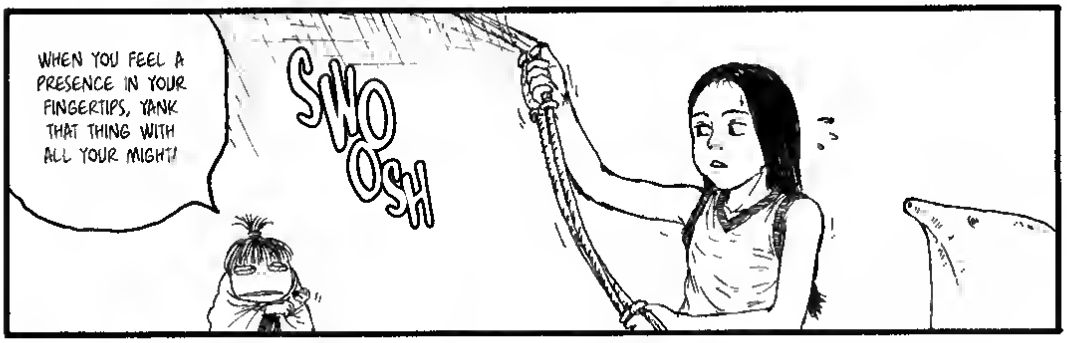
OH, UM... OF COURSE! I'LL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW!


GRANDMA, I'LL BE BORROWING THIS!
OH, DEAR...

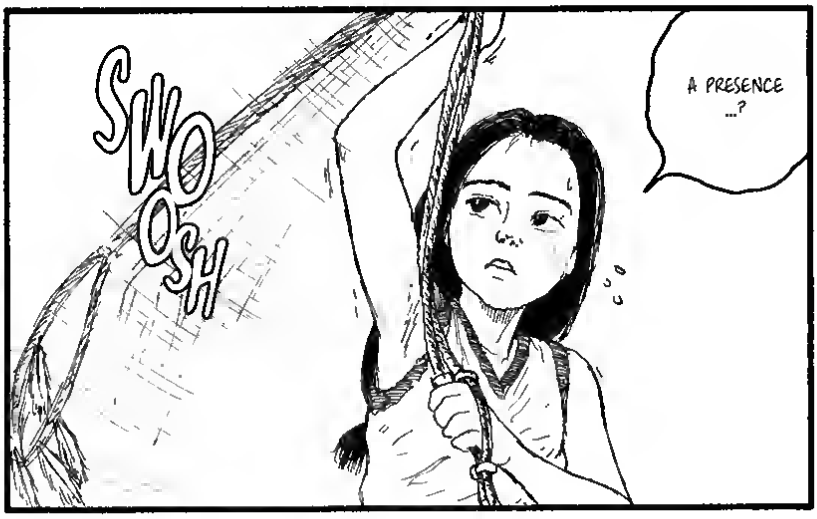

AFTERWARDS, TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOUR HERBAL MEDICINES!
HUH?

WHAT'RE YOU PLOTTING NOW?!


OKAY, NOW CONCENTRATE!


WHEN YOU FEEL A PRESENCE IN YOUR FINGERTIPS, YANK THAT THING WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT!
SWOOSH

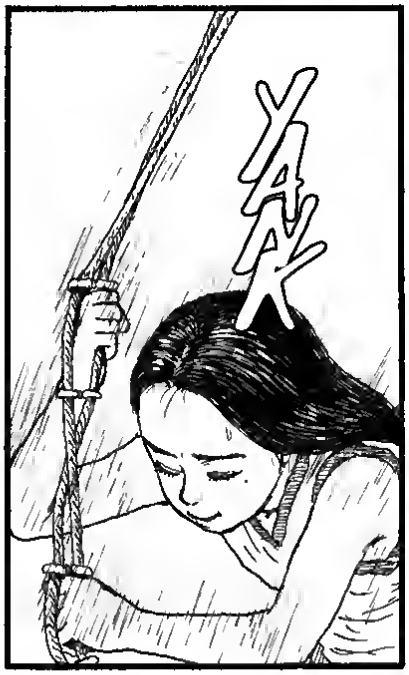
SWOOSH
whoa!

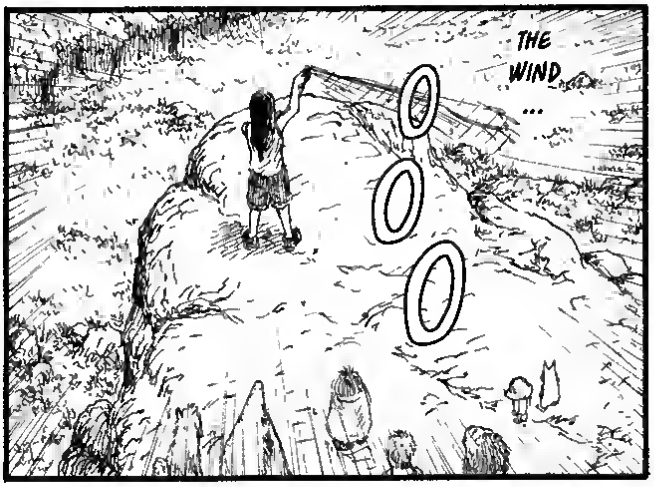

SWOOSH
A PRESENCE ...?

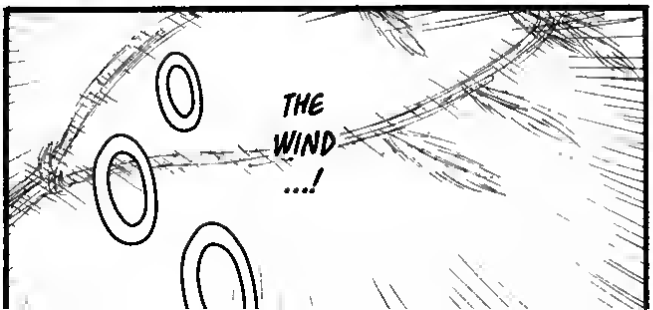
SWOSH
SWOSH
SWOSH
THE WIND ...

A PRESENCE...
A PRESENCE...

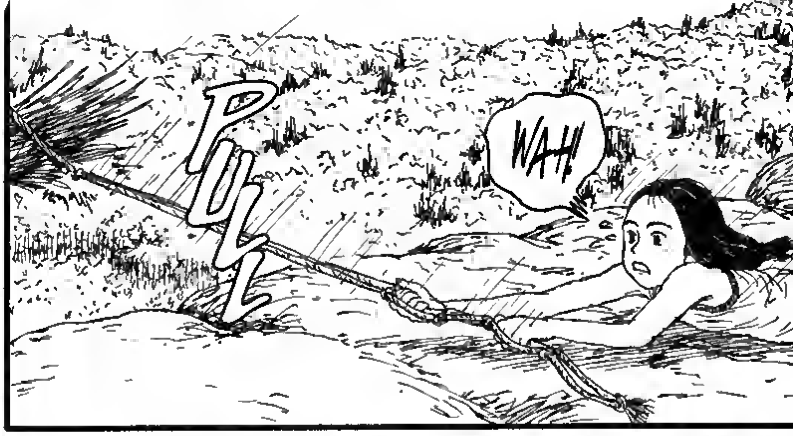
WHOOOO
THE WIND'S PRESENCE ...


YAAK


THE WIND ...
OOOO


THE WIND ...!
OOOO

HOO...
OWWW...


PULL
WAH!

SPLAAT

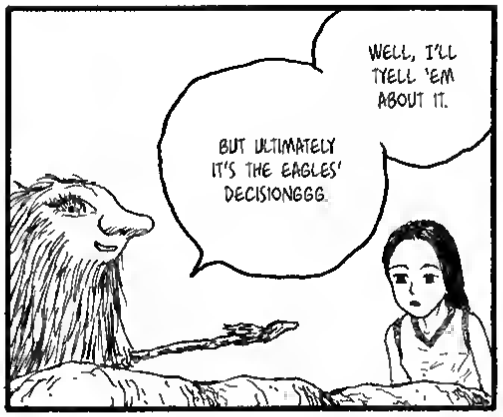
PLEASE! CAN'T YOU BRING US A GOLDEN EAGLE?
YOU MUST BE BLOWING ALL AROUND THE WORLD, RIGHT?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GYOT ME
YOU'RE JUST SOME LITTLE PIXIE, HOO!

HOO...
SO? DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE THE PERFECT PLACE FOR A GOLDEN EAGLE TO BUILD A NEST?

ARE YOU... THE WIND SPIRIT?
THAT'S-A RIGHT!
JUST CALL ME FUKURIN NAGIZARI, WIND SPIRIT EXTRAORDINAIRE, HOO!

JUST WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?! MY GRANDMOTHER IS THE MAGICAL WITCH WHO'S PROTECTED THIS FOREST FOR AGES, AND I FOR ONE AM NOT ABOUT TO BE--
HEY..
OKAY, OKAY, I GYET IT, HOO! LEMME GIVE IT A SHOT THEN!


WELL, I'LL TYELL 'EM ABOUT IT.
BUT ULTIMATELY IT'S THE EAGLES' DECISIONGGG.

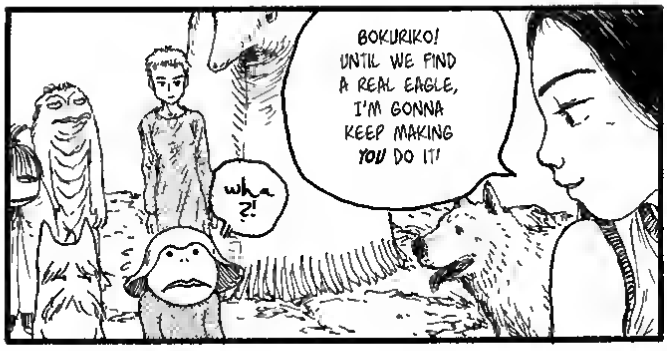
CAN WE REALLY DEPEND ON YOU TO PROTECT THESE WOODS?

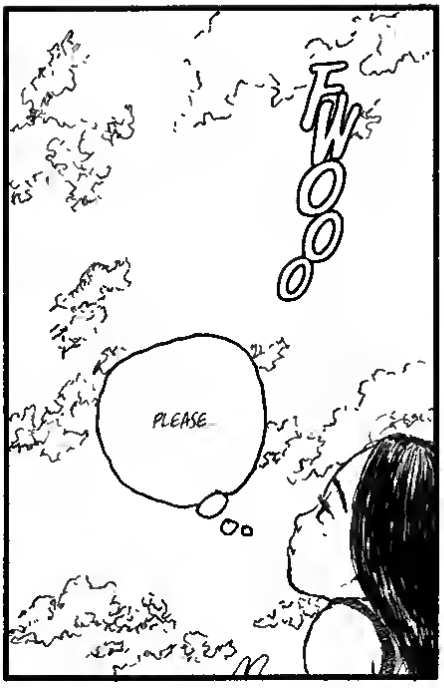
THE WIND WILL NEVER BLOW AGAIN, I TELL YA!

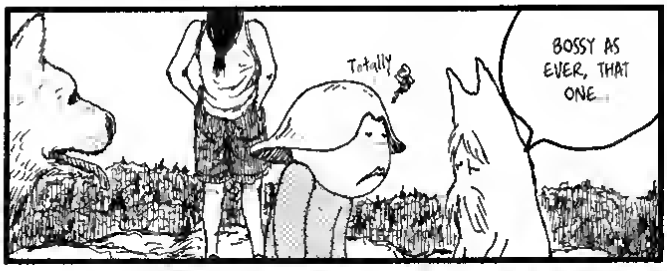
IF YOU DON'T DO IT FAST, I'LL CURSE YOU TO DEATH!
HEY, NOW.

BE PATIENT, NOW!
THNK

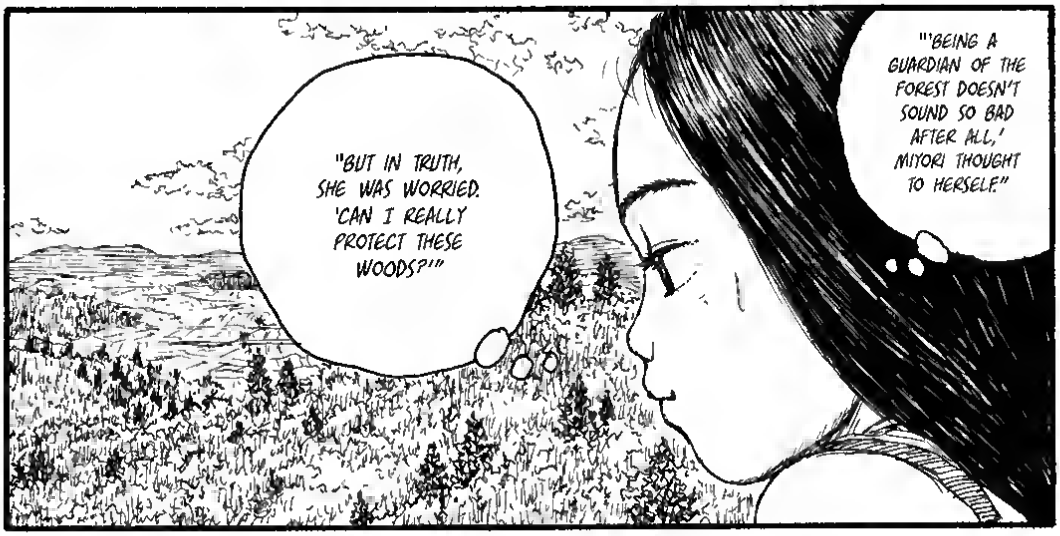
WE NEED YOU TO HURRY!
FWHS


BOKURIKO! UNTIL WE FIND A REAL EAGLE, I'M GONNA KEEP MAKING YOU DO IT!
wha ?!


FWOOO
PLEASE


Totally
BOSSY AS EVER, THAT ONE

FWOOO


"BUT IN TRUTH, SHE WAS WORRIED. 'CAN I REALLY PROTECT THESE WOODS?'"
"'BEING A GUARDIAN OF THE FOREST DOESN'T SOUND SO BAD AFTER ALL,' MIYORI THOUGHT TO HERSELF."

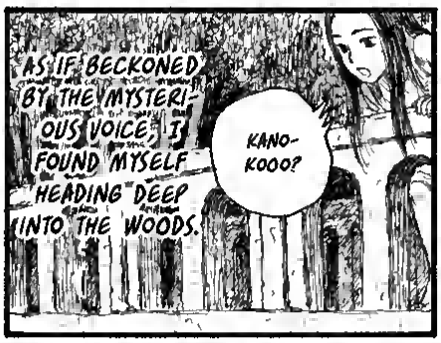
"'CAN I REALLY MAKE MY MOTHER UNDERSTAND SOMEDAY?'"
IT'LL BE OKAY...!
IT'LL BE OKAY..

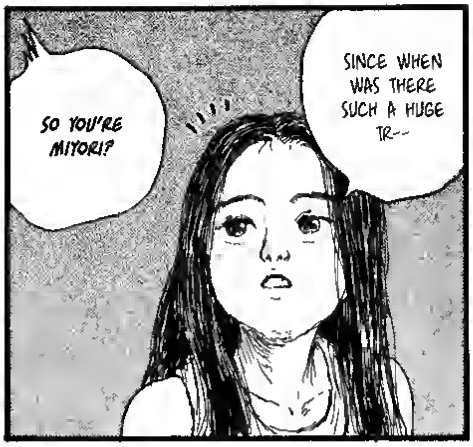
Miyori Calls Upon the Wind / End

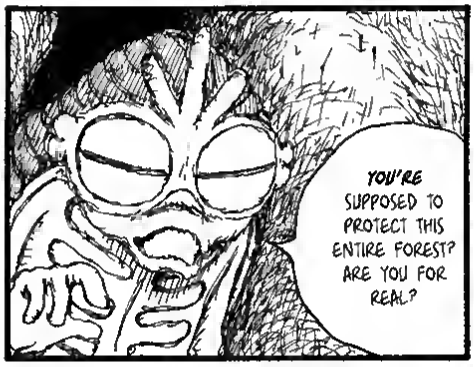
Miyori's Forest / End

An Extra Story

The Inner Depths of Miyori's Forest



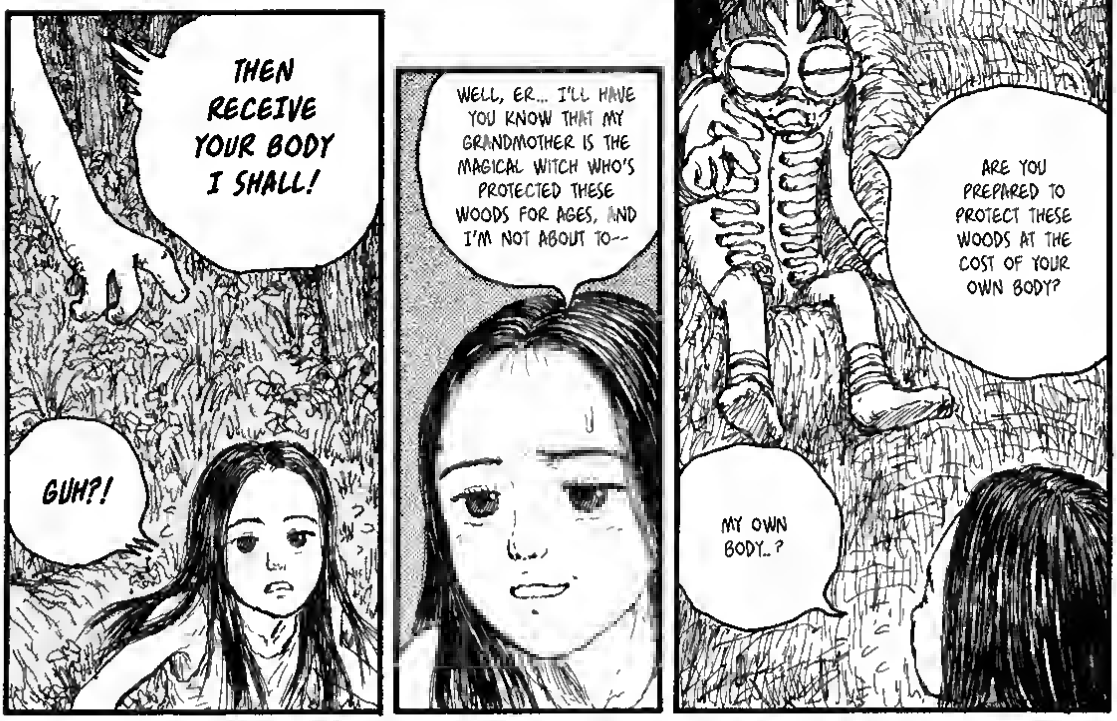

SINCE WHEN WAS THERE SUCH A HUGE TR--
SO YOU'RE MIYORI?

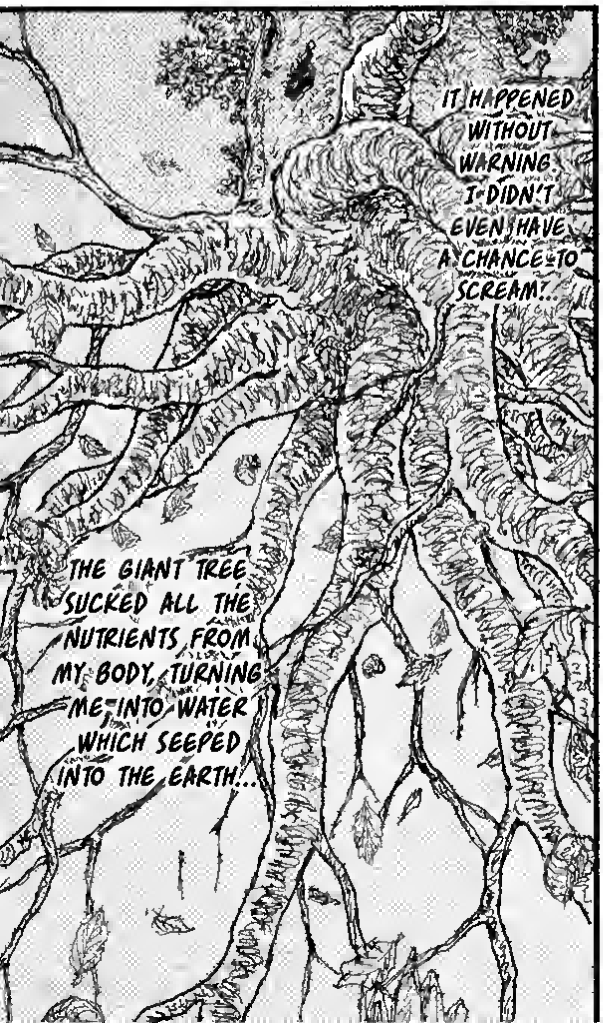

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT THIS ENTIRE FOREST? ARE YOU FOR REAL?

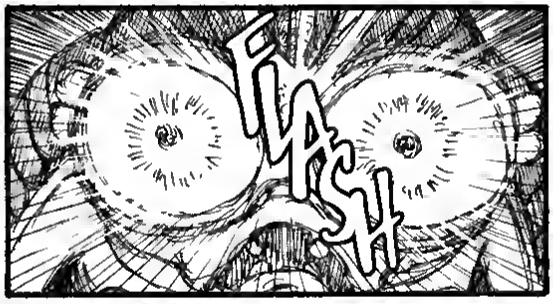
WHO THE HEC... HELL ARE YOU?!

I'M A MANIFESTATION OF THIS BIG TREE. I'VE LIVED HERE FOR THREE THOUSAND YEARS.
BUT LATELY I AIN'T BEEN FEELING SO WELL. I THINK I MIGHT... WITHER UP.

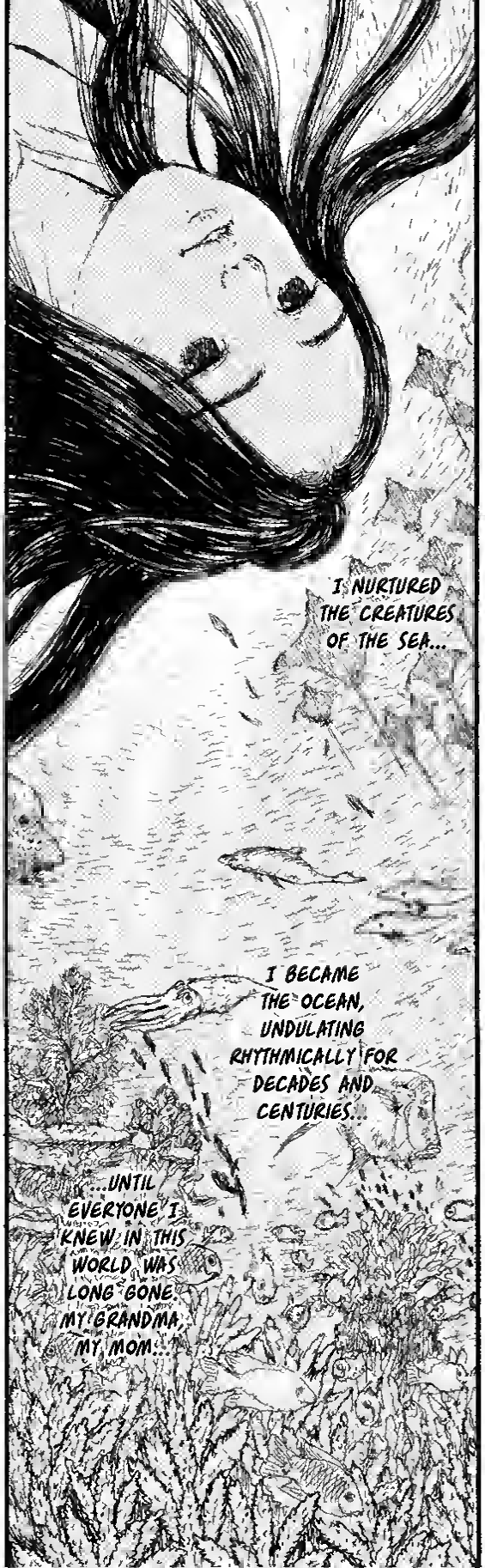
SUDDENLY, AN ENORMOUS TREE THAT I'D NEVER SEEN OR HEARD OF BEFORE APPEARED IN FRONT OF ME.
WHOA...


ARE YOU PREPARED TO PROTECT THESE WOODS AT THE COST OF YOUR OWN BODY?
MY OWN BODY..?
WELL, ER... I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT MY GRANDMOTHER IS THE MAGICAL WITCH WHO'S PROTECTED THESE WOODS FOR AGES, AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO--
THEN RECEIVE YOUR BODY I SHALL!
GUH?!


IT HAPPENED WITHOUT WARNING. I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO SCREAM!..
THE GIANT TREE SUCKED ALL THE NUTRIENTS FROM MY BODY, TURNING ME INTO WATER WHICH SEEPED INTO THE EARTH...

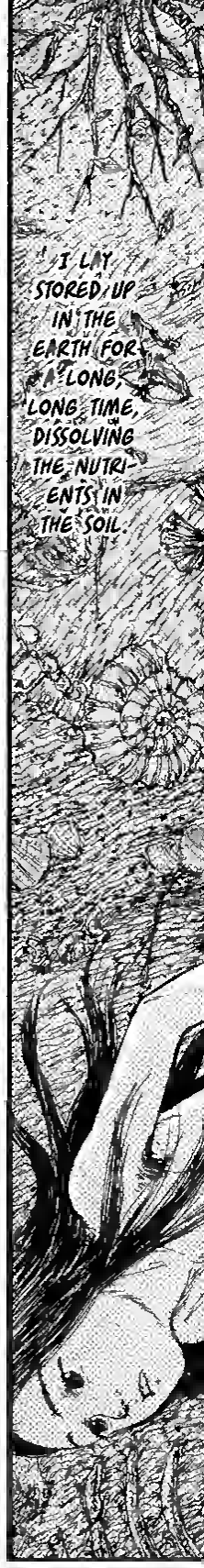

FLASH

SLOSH


I NURTURED THE CREATURES OF THE SEA...
I BECAME THE OCEAN, UNDULATING RHYTHMICALLY FOR DECADES AND CENTURIES...
...UNTIL EVERYONE I KNEW IN THIS WORLD WAS LONG GONE. MY GRANDMA, MY MOM...

I WASHED OVER THE EARTH, QUENCHING THE PEOPLE'S THIRST.

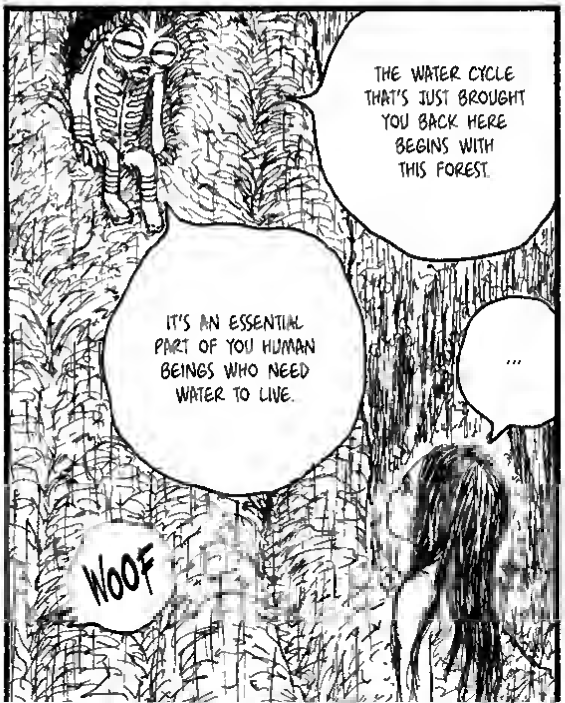
BY AND BY, I BUBBLED UP FROM THE GROUND AND TRICKLED INTO THE RIVER.
SSSHH...


I LAY STORED UP IN THE EARTH FOR A LONG, LONG TIME, DISSOLVING THE NUTRIENTS IN THE SOIL.

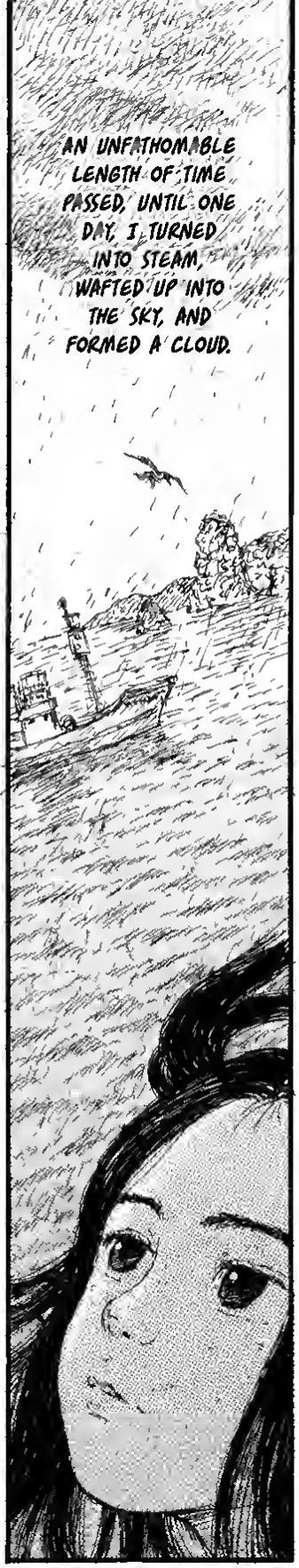
FSHHH...

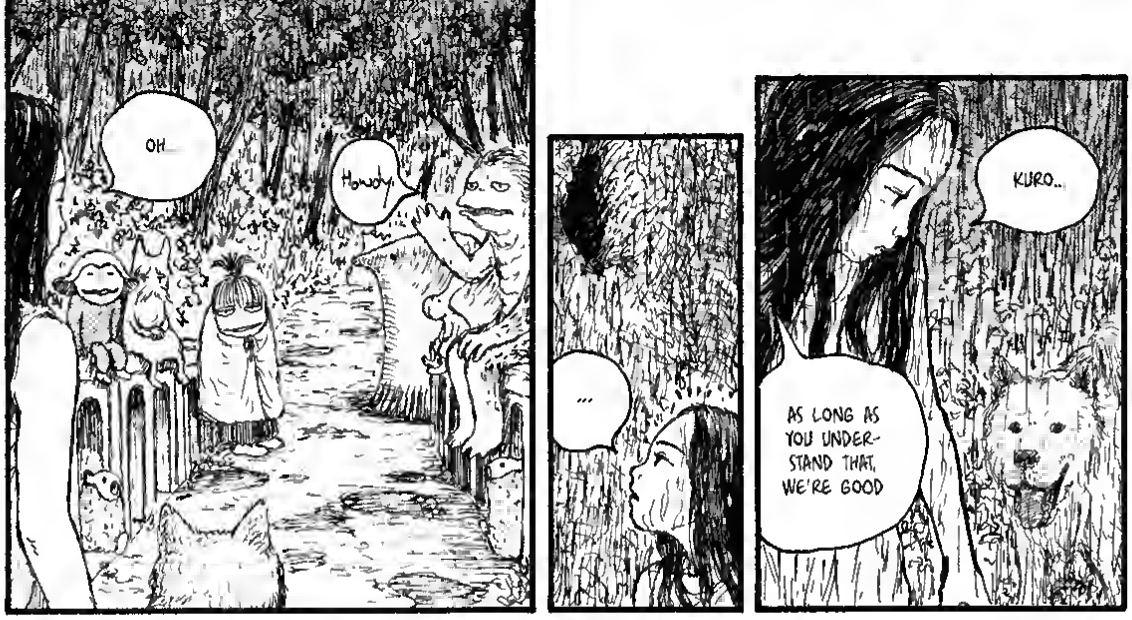
FSHHH...
...!

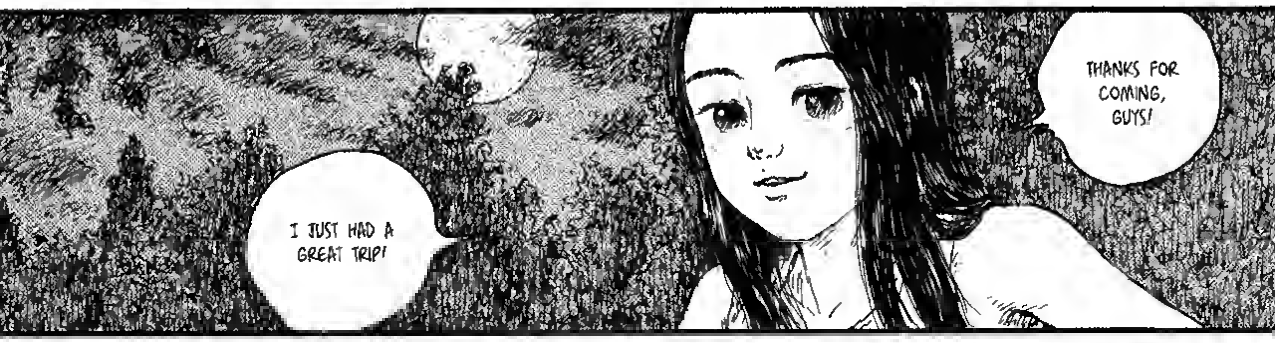
WELCOME BACK!


THE WATER CYCLE THAT'S JUST BROUGHT YOU BACK HERE BEGINS WITH THIS FOREST.
IT'S AN ESSENTIAL PART OF YOU HUMAN BEINGS WHO NEED WATER TO LIVE.
...
WOOF

OVER THE TOWNS, OVER THE FOREST, OVER THE PEOPLE, MY RAIN POURED DOWN.
FSHHH...


AN UNFATHOMABLE LENGTH OF TIME PASSED, UNTIL ONE DAY, I TURNED INTO STEAM, WAFTED UP INTO THE SKY, AND FORMED A CLOUD.





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The Inner Depths of Miyori's Forest / End

First published in ***Mystery Bonita*** (Issue April ~ November 2003)
"The Inner Depths of Miyori's Forest" was specially drawn for this book.

Afterword

● *Miyori's Forest* depicts an amalgam of concepts and does not fully illustrate the realism of forests or rural life. For those interested, I whole-heartedly recommend you try reading works such as Henry David Thoreau's ***Life in the Woods***, C. W. Nicol's ***Mori Kara Mirai wo Miru*** (Seeing the Future from the Forest), Yoshinori Yasuda's ***Kankyo Kokogaku Kotohajime*** (Introduction to Environmental Archaeology), and Daisuke Igarashi's ***Little Forest***.

● I hope that this work may serve as a gateway to interest for those who have never lived outside a city or are otherwise unfamiliar with rural settings.

● It is perhaps worth making note of people's frequent tendency to imagine forests to be somehow god-like, possessing a sort of mystical power. This is not unlike the monotheistic desire of some people to serve a god that they themselves have created. However, it is these people who are sometimes unable to perceive the true nature of forests. A forest hides nothing. I believe that a forest simply fulfills its vital role in a natural cycle, without any sense of duty or knowing. I also feel that human beings are to maintain a moderate relationship with these forests, humbly taking from them what we must, but never breaking down that natural cycle.

● Incidentally, Miyori's appearance is based without permission on girls' magazine model N. H.-chan. Ever heard of her? I don't suppose they look that similar in the end, though.

October 2003, Hideji Oda
http://odahideji.at.infoseek.co.jp